



# Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board

(An Autonomous and Statutory/Regulatory Body under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, GOI)

Letter No: 344 / 4-11(28)

Date: 14-10-2015

## Important Circular

U.P. State Biodiversity Board under Section 37 (Biological Diversity Act, 2002) intends to declare Gharial Rehabilitation Centre (GRC) Kukaril, Lucknow as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) Kukrail, Lucknow.

The summary of the proposal for declaration of GRC, Kukrail to be declared as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS), Kukrail, Lucknow is mentioned below:

**1. BACKGROUND**:- Visit to the well-known Kukrail Picnic Spot developed in Kukrail Forest, Lucknow is incomplete without learning about gharials, crocodiles and turtles at Gharial Rehabilitation Centre, Kukrail. This centre was established in 1975 with the main objective of *ex situ* conservation of gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) the sole surviving member of the *Gavialidae*. It is believed that the gharials appeared on this planet about 95 billion years ago and alongwith 21 species of crocodile, are descendents of Dinosaurs which became extinct about 60 billion years back after their domination for around 120 billion years.

When this Centre was established, the population of gharials was estimated to be not more than 300 in nature. This much important species of our aquatic eco-system had become victim of the lust of humans for more and more earnings with



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trade of skins of this beautiful animal of our rivers. Now it can be said that this species has reached a level which is safe for its survival. Contribution of Gharial Rehabilitation Centre, Kukrail shall always be remembered by the future generation in this context. The efforts of *ex situ* conservation of gharial at this Centre shall remain in form of legends for the centuries to come. This Centre, has also undertaken activities for conserving number of species of turtles. With total protection provided to the entire 10 hectare area of the Centre, conservation of native flora and fauna was automatically ensured.

2. **LOCATION**:- Gharial Rehabilitation Centre, Kukrail, Lucknow is located in the East Block of Kukrail Reserved Forest adjoining the Kukrail Picnic Spot. With increasing colonization, now it is very much near to Indira Nagar.
3. **AREA**:- The area proposed for BHS is 10 hectare (the entire area of Gharial Rehabilitation Centre, Kukrail)
4. **APPROACH AND ACCESS**:- Lucknow is well connected with all major cities by air, rail and road. Gharial Rehabilitation Centre, Kukrail is about 28-30 km. from Amausi Airport. The city's main railway station, i.e., Charbagh is situated at a distance of around 12-15 km. from the Centre.
5. **CLIMATE**:- Climate of Lucknow is tropical. Winters are very cold and in summers, the situation is reverse. Temperature variation is from 2<sup>0</sup> C to 48<sup>0</sup> C. Dense fog, frost and cold winds



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are the problems of winters whereas extreme hot winds, commonly known as *loo* blow during major part of the summers. During previous years lot of variation (from 410 mm to 1227 mm) has been observed in the mean annual rainfall. Humidity variations are also of extreme nature. During the last two decades, average temperature has increased and erratic distribution pattern of rains has been observed. Because of thick forest developed in and around Gharial Rehabilitation Centre, Kukrail, there is some local moderation in extremes of climatic factors.

- 6. WATER**:- The terrain of the area is gently slopy towards Kukrail nala which is a tributary of Gomti river. Few decades back Kukrail nala was in form of a perennial rivulet fed with underground water coming out from natural springs and extra water released through escape canals of Irrigation Department. But now, it is a seasonal rivulet fed only with drained water during excessive rains. The course of this nala, lying onward to the Kukrail forest; flows filthy sewage. During excessive rains, there are cases of water-logging in breeding enclosure. All other enclosures and ponds are well connected with proper drainage system which leads to Kukrail nala. There are four tube-well borings with submersible pumps which are sufficient for the water requirements of the ponds, enclosures and human consumption.

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7. **FLORA**:- The Centre is full of floral biodiversity in form of various types of trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses (including bamboos). The rich greenery gives respite to the tourists, particularly, in summers and drizzling on a rainy day. For the morning walkers and lovers of yoga, the site is most favourite.

The concise list of floral biodiversity present in the Gharial Rehabilitation Centre, Kukrail is annexed as **Annexure No.1.**

8. **FAUNA**:- The area has good biodiversity of fauna which include- Rhesus Monkey, Jackal, Fox, Common mongoose, Small Indian mongoose, Blue bull, Five striped squirrel, Common house rat, Indian mole rat, House mouse, Porcupine, Hare, Brown shrew, various snakes like- cobra, python, common Krait, Rat snake, Water Snake. Many species of fishes, viz., Chilwa, Katla, Mirla, Mangur, Rohu & Girai are found in the nearby Kukrail nala.

The list of birds reported from Kukrail Centre is annexed as **Annexure No.2.**

Besides the natural fauna, the Gharial Rehabilitation Centre, Kukrail is now well-known for conserving (*Gavialis gangeticus*) the sole surviving member of the *Gavialidae*. This Centre has also contributed in conserving many species of turtle. The list of such species of turtle is annexed as **Annexure No.3.**



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## **9. SUITABILITY FOR SELECTION AS BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE SITE:-** Gharial Rehabilitation Centre, Kukrail is

very much suitable for selection as Biodiversity Heritage Site as per the guidelines because of following peculiarities, amongst others:

- (A) The Centre has contributed immensely for survival of gharial which was almost to extinct and thus will be known for this great achievement as a heritage site even after centuries to follow.
- (B) This has also contributed in conservation of turtles.
- (C) Creation of awareness for survival of gharials, turtles and other wildlife is a major achievement of this center which shall be remembered by posterity.
- (D) Providing total protection to the area has resulted in significant enrichment of native flora and fauna. As a consequence, the area has developed as a favourite habitat for aquatic, terrestrial and seasonal migrant species. The resultant effect is that an ecosystem is visible in vicinity of developing jungle of concrete.
- (E) The spot has become a great attraction for tourists and wildlife lovers.
- (F) It has provided ecological security in a city with meteoric increase of colonization and expansion which has resulted in human welfare.
- (G) The area represents a positive interface between nature, culture, society; and technologies.

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- (H) The area is so close to urban habitation that it is always at risk, on the other hand it is also an asset in environmental terms and that is why it needs special attention.
- (I) The area does not suffer from any legal dispute.

## 10. FULFILLMENT OF CRITERIA LAID DOWN FOR BHS:-

Following are the criteria for proposing the area as Biodiversity Heritage Site-

- (A) It contains a mosaic of nature, semi-natural, and man-made habitats which together contain a significant diversity of life forms.
- (B) It is in form of a small urban green that offer refuge for threatened and endemic fauna and flora.
- (C) The area is fully under control of Government of U.P. through U.P. Forest Department.
- (D) The site is not covered under Protected Area network under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (as amended).
- (E) It also provides habitat for seasonal migrant species of some birds.

From the above, it is clear that the area proposed fulfills at least five criteria among nine laid down for identification of BHS in the Guidelines. It is worth mentioning that as per the Guidelines, an area having any of the nine characteristics may qualify for inclusion as Biodiversity Heritage Site.



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## 11. ADVANTAGES FORESEEN WITH NOTIFICATION AS BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE SITE:-

- (A) If the area is notified as a BHS, it will be a matter of pride for the urban population and rural folk as well of the capital of U.P. and lot of employment opportunities will generate for the locals.
- (B) Scope of creation of awareness for protection and conservation of our floral and faunal biodiversity among the masses will increase beyond expatiations.
- (C) The conservation measures to be adopted after notification as BHS will enhance the quality of life of the local communities.
- (D) It will help in protecting the depleting environment of Lucknow

## 12. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF BHS:-

- (A) Since the area proposed is Government Forest area (Reserved Forest), the management structure and utilization of resources for BHS will be determined by the U.P. Forest Department.
- (B) The BHS will be managed by the Endangered Project, U.P., Lucknow.
- (C) A management plan shall be prepared after detailed studies with specific activities in given time frame, execution of such plan shall also be ensured.
- (D) Necessary guidance will always be sought from SVB, NBA and other biodiversity experts.



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## Annexure No.1

### List of Vegetation at the Proposed Site

#### (A) Tree Species

Sl. No.	Local/common Name	Botanical Name
<b><u>FRUIT BEARING TREES:-</u></b>		
1	Bael	<i>Aegle marmelos</i>
2	Shahtoot (Mulbery)	<i>Morus alba</i>
3	Ber	<i>Zizyphus mauritiana</i>
4	Amrood (Guava)	<i>Psidium guyaya</i>
5	Aam (Mango)	<i>Mangifera indica</i>
6	Jamun	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>
7	Barhal	<i>Artocarpus lakoocha</i>
8	Papita (Papaya)	<i>Carica papaya</i>
9	Imli	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>
10	Amla	<i>Emblica officinalis</i>
<b><u>ORNAMENTAL TREES:-</u></b>		
1	Kasod	<i>Cassia siamia</i>
2	Jacaranda	<i>Jacaranda ovalifolia</i>
3	Peltoforum	<i>Peltoforum feruginium</i>
4	Gul Mohar	<i>Delonix regia</i>
5	Amaltas	<i>Cassia fistula</i>
6	Jarul	<i>Lagerstroemiaflos-reginae</i>
7	Silver Oak	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>
8	Casuarina	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>
9	Bottle Brush	<i>Callistemon lanceolatus</i>
10	Ashok	<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i>
11	Ashok Pendula	<i>Polyalthia pendula</i>
12	Akashmoni	<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>

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13	Kachnar	<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>
14	Harshringar	<i>Nyctanthes arbor-tristis</i>
15	Indian Rubber Tree	<i>Ficus elastica</i>
	<b><u>TIMBER/SHADE/MEDICINAL/FODDER TREES:-</u></b>	
1	Pakar	<i>Ficus infectoria</i>
2	Banyan (Bargad)	<i>Ficus bengalensis</i>
3	Gular	<i>Ficus glomerata</i>
4	Pipal	<i>Ficus religiosa</i>
5	Phaldu	<i>Mitragyna parvifolia</i>
6	Neem (Margosa Tree)	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>
7	Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus hybrid</i>
8	Shisham	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>
9	Kala Siris	<i>Albizzia lebbek</i>
10	Arjun	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>
11	Kadamb	<i>Anthocephalus cadamba</i>
12	Kanji	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>
13	Lasora	<i>Cordia dichotoma</i>
14	Bakain	<i>Melia azedarach</i>
15	Babool	<i>Acacia nilotica</i>
16	Kusum	<i>Schleichera trijuga</i>
17	Jangal jalebi	<i>Pithecolobium dulce</i>
18	Maulshri	<i>Mimusops elengi</i>
19	Vilayti Babool	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>
20	Arru	<i>Ailanthus excels</i>
21	Balam Kheera	<i>Kigelia pinnata</i>

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## (B) Shrubs and Herbs

Sl. No.	Local/common Name	Botanical Name
1	Asedh/Juhir	<i>Solanum verbascifolium</i>
2	Aak/Madar	<i>Calotropis procera</i>
3	Tarhar	<i>Cajanus Cajanus</i>
4	Arusa/Kansa	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i>
5	Inni	<i>Clerodendron phlomoidis</i>
6	Uat Katar/Gokharu	<i>Echinops echinatus</i>
7	Kataiya	<i>Flacourtia indica</i>
8	Karaunda	<i>Carissa spinarum</i>
9	Kairi	<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>
10	Kuri	<i>Lantana camara</i>
11	Kathmar	<i>Ficus cunea</i>
12	Kankohar/Manpal	<i>Randia dumetorum</i>
13	Kakad	<i>Abutilon indicum</i>
14	Kharbair/Kanta bair	<i>Zizyphus nummularia</i>
15	Khadiyar/Piluva	<i>salvadora persica</i>
16	Gandhela/Kathneem	<i>Murraya hirsute</i>
17	Gudhsakari	<i>Grewia hirsute</i>
18	Chakunda	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i>
19	Chakoda/Panwar	<i>Cassia tora</i>
20	Gurgava	<i>Grewia flavescens</i>
21	Jharberry	<i>Zizyphus mauritiana</i>
22	Dhauta/Dhavai	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i>
23	Patera	<i>Typha elephantina</i>
24	Bhang	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>

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25	Bhat	<i>Clerodendron viscosum</i>
26	Bhatakataichua	<i>Solnum xanthocarpum</i>
27	Rambans	<i>Agave americana</i>
28	Sarfouk	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i>
29	Hingot	<i>Balanites aegyptica</i>
30	Heens	<i>Capparis zeylanica</i>

## (C) Climbers/Creepers

Sl. No.	Local/common Name	Botanical Name
1	Amar Bel	<i>Cuscutta reflexa</i>
2	Odi/Kakrora	<i>Capparis sepiaria</i>
3	Indrayan	<i>Trichosanthes bracteata</i>
4	Kali Vet	<i>Combretum decandrum</i>
5	Kyohi/Hariya/Vauri	<i>Ventilago calyculata</i>
6	Kuvi/Aila	<i>Acacia pinnata</i>
7	Kundru	<i>Coccinea indica</i>
8	Kouch	<i>Mucuna prurita</i>
9	Gauj	<i>Milletia auriculata</i>
10	Guruch	<i>Trinospora malabarica</i>
11	Charendi	<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i>
12	Darhari Bail/Tameran	<i>Maerua arenaria</i>
13	Duddhi/Dudhiya	<i>Ichnocarpus frutescens</i>
14	Duddhi	<i>Cryptolepis buchanaani</i>
15	Duddhi Bail	<i>Vallaris solanacea</i>
16	Pani Bail	<i>Vitis repanda</i>

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17	Praval	<i>Trichosanthes dioica</i>
18	Puraina/Harjuri	<i>Cissampelos pareira</i>
19	Badhasin	<i>Butea superb</i>
20	Vanda	<i>Dendrophthoe falcate</i>
21	Maurarain	<i>Bauhinia vahlii</i>
22	Makoh	<i>Zixyphus oenopia</i>
23	Klakangani	<i>Celastrus panicolatus</i>
24	Shramdatun	<i>Smilax prolifera</i>
25	Satawar	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i>

## (D) Bamboos

Sl. No.	Local/common Name	Botanical Name
1	Bans	<i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i>
2	Kathbans	<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i>

## (E) Grasses

Sl. No.	Local/common Name	Botanical Name
1	Dasari	<i>Sporobolus marginatus</i>
2	Kans	<i>Saccharum spontaneum</i>
3	Kus	<i>Chrysopogan contortus</i>
4	Kala Lappa	<i>Heteropogan contortus</i>
5	Khas/Gadur	<i>Vetivisria zizanioides</i>
6	Gangeruva	<i>Andropogon pumilus</i>
7	Guner/Ganer	<i>Themeda quadrivalvis</i>
8	Chakwa/Guriya	<i>Chrysopogon montanus</i>

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9	Choti Jargi/Fuleriya	<i>Bothriocola pertusa</i>
10	Jarga/Jeneva	<i>Dichanthium annulatum</i>
11	Chhab	<i>Desmostachya bipinnata</i>
12	Doob	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>
13	Naldura/Narsal	<i>Arundo donax</i>
14	Bhanjuri/Fuleca	<i>Apluda mutica</i>
15	Mooj	<i>Saccharum munja</i>
16	Murjhaina	<i>Eremopogan fovilatus</i>
17	Musail	<i>Iseilema laxum</i>
18	Saider	<i>Cymbopogan martini</i>
19	Safed Lappa	<i>Aristida cylindrical</i>
20	Siru	<i>Imperata cylindrical</i>

## Annexure No.2

### List of Birds Reported from the Proposed Site

Sl.No.	Name	Scientific Name
<b>Family ARDEIDAE</b>		
1	GREY HERON (सिलेटी अंजन)	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
2	INDIAN POND HERON (चामा अंजन)	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
3	CATTLE EGRET (बादामी बगुला)	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
4	LITTLE EGRET (छोटा बगुला)	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
5	BLACK-CROWNED SPARROW HAWK (रात्रि अंजन)	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
<b>Family ACCIPITRIDAE</b>		
6	SHIKRA (शिकरा)	<i>Accipiter triviragatus</i>
7	NORTHERN SPARROW HAWK (बाशा)	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>

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<b>Family PHASIANIDAE</b>		
8	INDIAN PEAFOWL (मोर)	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
9	WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN (दौक)	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
<b>Family CHARADRIIDAE</b>		
10	RED-WATTLED LAPWING (टिटहरी)	<i>Canellus indicus</i>
<b>Family COLUBIDAE</b>		
11	YELLOW-FOOTED GREEN PIGEON (हरियल)	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>
12	ROCK PIGEON (नीला कबूतर)	<i>Columba livia</i>
13	INDIAN RING DOVE (ढोर फाख्ता)	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
14	SPOTTED DOVE (चित्तीदार फाख्ता)	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
<b>Family PSITTACIDAE</b>		
15	ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET (हीरामन तोता)	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
<b>Family CUCULIDAE</b>		
16	PIED CUCKOO (कुहुक)	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
17	ASIAN KOEL (कोयल)	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
18	GREATER COUCAL (बड़ा महोक)	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
<b>Family STRIGIDAE</b>		
19	JUNGLE OWLET (जंगली चोगद)	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>
20	SPOTTED OWLET (धब्बेदार चोगद)	<i>Alhene brama</i>
<b>Family APODIATE</b>		
21	HOUSE SWIFT (टवाबील)	<i>Apus affinis</i>

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<b>Family ALCEDINIDAE</b>		
22	WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER (सफेद गर्दन किलकिला)	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
<b>Family MEROPIDAE</b>		
23	GREEN BEE-EATER (हरा पतरिंगा)	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
<b>Family CORACIIDAE</b>		
24	INDIAN ROLLER (Blue Jay) (नीलकंठ)	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
<b>Family UPUPIDAE</b>		
25	COMMON HOPPOE (हुदहुद)	<i>Upupa epops</i>
<b>Family BUCEROTIDAE</b>		
26	INDIAN GREY HORNBILL (सिलेटी धनेश)	<i>Tockus birostris</i>
<b>Family CAPITONIDAE</b>		
27	BROWN-HEADED BARBET (भूरेसिर का खोटुर)	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>

<b>Family ORIOLIDAE</b>		
28	INDIAN ORIOLE (सुनहरा पीलक)	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
<b>Family DICRURIDAE</b>		
29	BLACK DRONGO (काला भुजंगा)	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
<b>Family STURNIDAE</b>		
30	CHESTNUT-TAILED STARLING (भूरीपूंछ स्टारलिंग)	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>
31	INDIAN MYNA (देसी मैना)	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
32	BANK MYNA (बैंक मैना)	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>
33	JUNGLE MYNA (जंगली मैना)	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>

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<b>Family CORVADAE</b>		
34	RUFOUS TREEPIE (लाल कोकीया)	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
35	HOUSE CROW (देसी कौवा)	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
36	LARGE-BILLED CROW (जंगली कौवा)	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
<b>Family PYCNONOTIDAE</b>		
37	RED-EHISKERED BULBUL (लालगाल बुलबुल)	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
38	RED-VENTED BULBUL (लाल पूँछ बुलबुल)	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
<b>Family MUSCICAPIDAE, Sub family TIMALINAE</b>		
39	COMMON BABBLER (सामान्य पनदोआ)	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>
<b>Sub family TURDINAE</b>		
40	INDIAN ROBBIN (कलचुरी)	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>
<b>Family MOTACILLIDAE</b>		
41	WHITE WAGTALL (सफेद धोबन)	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
42	YELLOW WAGTALL (सफेद भौं धोबन)	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>
<b>Family NECTARINIIDAE</b>		
43	PURPLE SUNBIRD (काला भाकरखोरा)	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>
<b>Family ZOSTEROPIDAE</b>		
44	ORIENTAL WHITE-EYE (बबूना)	<i>Zosterops palpebrosa</i>
<b>Family PLOCEIDAE, Sub family PASSERINAE</b>		
45	HOUSE SPARROW (गौरैया)	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
<b>Sub family ESTRILDINAE</b>		
46	RED AVADAVAT (लाल मुनिया)	<i>Amandava amandava</i>

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## Annexure No.3

### List of Turtles

Sl.No.	Name	Scientific Name
1	Indian Narrow-Headed Turtle (स्योतर)	<i>Chitra indica</i>
2	Indian Softshell Turtle (कटहवा)	<i>Nilssonina gangetica</i>
3	Indian Peacock Softshell Turtle (मोरपंखी)	<i>Nilssonina hurum</i>
4	Indian Flapshell Turtle (सुन्दरी)	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>
5	Brown-Roofed Turtle (ब्राह्मणी)	<i>Pangshura smithii</i>
6	Crown-Roofed Turtle (काली ढोढ़)	<i>Hardella thurjii</i>
7	Indian-Roofed Turtle (पचेड़ा)	<i>Pangshura tecta</i>
8	Indian-Tent Turtle (कोरी पचेड़ा)	<i>Pangshura tentoria</i>
9	Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle (साल)	<i>Batagur kachuga</i>
10	Spotted Pond Turtle (भूतकाथा)	<i>Geoclemys hamiltonii</i>
11	Three-Striped Roof Turtle (ढोढ़)	<i>Batagur dhongoka</i>
12	Tricarinate Hill Turtle (पहाड़ी त्रिकुटकी)	<i>Melanochelys tricarinata</i>
13	Indian Black Turtle (भारतीय काला कछुआ)	<i>Melanochelys trijuga</i>
14	Indian Star Tortoise (तारा कछुआ)	<i>Geochelone elegans</i> (Star)

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In order to fulfill the requirement of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Guidelines of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS), the U.P. State Biodiversity Board invites suggestions from all stakeholders for declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) of aforesaid site.

The suggestions may be sent to U.P. State Biodiversity Board at email: [upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com](mailto:upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com) by 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2015.

Pawan Kumar,  
Secretary,  
U.P. State Biodiversity Board  
East Wing, 'A' Block, IIIrd Floor,  
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