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PUC is a letter dated 14.12.2015 regarding conducting of research in Sea turtle in South & West Bay Little Andaman Islands received from the Center for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institutes of Science, Bangalore 560012, India.

It has been stated that they are conducting long term research project on leatherback sea turtles of the A&N Islands since 2007 in collaboration with the Forest Department & ANET and with the permission of Tribal Welfare Department communicated vide letter dated 16.11.2009 (Flag-X)

Now they are going to start their camps in South and West Bay for the upcoming nesting seas from 18.12.2015 to 1.3.2016 for which they have obtained necessary permission from Forest Department vide letter dated 15.7.2015 (Flag-Y) and now they are in need of NOC from the Tribal Welfare Department.

It is submitted that the South Bay area of Little Andaman is coming under Tribal Reserve Area and for entering into the said area necessary tribal pass is required from the District Administration. Recently, the A&N Administration has set up ANTRI and a Research Advisory Board has been constituted who has been authorized to function as clearing house for all research proposals pertaining to the indigenous tribal communities and tribal areas of the A&N Islands.

The concurrence of the RAB is not required in the instant case as the research proposal is not meant for indigenous tribal communities and tribal areas of the A&N Islands. It is the project for leatherback sea turtles of the A&N Islands and the research activities is to be carried out in South Bay of Little Andaman which is considered to be Tribal Reserve Area.

Since the project is in-collaboration with Forest Department and necessary permission has already been granted by them, therefore, issuing of NOC by the department will help them to obtain necessary tribal pass from the Dy Commissioner, South Andaman to enter into the tribal areas. However, it is proposed that we may grant NOC to them only on the following conditions:

- 1) The research should be carried out under the overall supervision of Divisional Forest Officer, Little Andaman & Dy Commissioner, South Andaman District.
- 2) No undue interference in the lives of Onges and Nicobar tribes staying at Harminder Bay during the course of research.
- The result of the study should be shared with the Directorate of Tribal Welfare, A&N Administration.
- 4) Necessary permits for entry into tribal reserve should be obtained from the District Administration

Kind approval of the Secretary (TW), A&N Administration may be solicited.

TRO 14/12

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Secretary (TW)

Affronced by today. Let him DC (SA).

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