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Impact Assessment of Hazira - Dahej Petroleum Product Pipeline (Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited) on the Flora and Fauna



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Salim Ali Centre For Ornithology & Natural History
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
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FOR REFERENCE



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5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Indian Petrochemical Corporation Limited (IPCL) proposes to lay a 97 km long pipeline to transport natural gas, from ONGC, Hazira to IPCL, Dahej in Gujarat state. The entire stretch of the route of the pipeline was examined following sample survey method.

2) Mostly the pipeline passes through cultivable, fallow and waste lands. The route crosses patches of thick babul jungle at 15 locations of which at least half are private owned lands. The route crosses HWL in few locations of which two are estuarine coasts.

3) 104 species of plants comprising 15 species of climbers, 47 of herbs, 18 of shrubs and 24 of trees are recorded along the path of the pipeline and its environs.

4) No wildlife sanctuary or national park, occurs along the pipeline route.

5) 1915 trees, mostly common species will be felled during the creation of 20 m wide RoW. Necessary compensatory tree planting programme may be undertaken for compensating the trees to be cut on the RoW for the betterment of local environment. In compensatory tree-planting programme preference may be given to local species.

6) In all, 6 species of mammals, 79 of birds were sighted during the survey, and 19 species of reptiles and seven species of amphibians are expected in the environs of HDPL. Of these only 12 are listed in schedule I & II of the Wildlife Protection Act. However, most of these animals are highly mobile and are not very prone to short-term disturbances that are likely during the pipeline construction.

7) An attempt to grade the ecological sensitivity / significance of the route based on the occurrence of animals belonging to schedule I & II, floral and faunal endemism, and

legal status of the area suggest that the route passes through area of low ecological sensitivity.

8) The major impact of the pipeline project is during the construction. During the operation phase the underground pipeline practically does not pose any threat to the local ecological makeup, except in case of accidents such as leakage which have low probability.