



No. WII/RTI/CPIO/2020-21 (Qtr-II)/88

Date: 04 February, 2021

To,

Mr. Kareem Ansari  
Yugantar (B34PBHDX)  
3-4-142/6, Baraktpura  
Hyderabad -500027

Sub.: Information under RTI Act, 2005-reg.

Ref.: Your RTI No. --- dated 19.01.2021

Sir,

Please refer to your application cited above under RTI Act, 2005. In this context, the point-wise response to your queries is given below:

| S. No. | Information Sought under RTI                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Reply under RTI                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1      | Terms of Reference given to WII by Standing committee of National Board for wildlife to conduct the mitigation measure study for the project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Please see Annexure-1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2      | Financial assistance received for the study and report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Please see Annexure-2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3      | Mitigation measure study and report in Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol Railway doubling of South Western Railways-Karnataka                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | The report contains 108 pages. If you require the certified photocopy of this document, then kindly deposit an additional fee of Rs. 216/- [108 pages @ 2/page] u/s 7(3) of RTI Act, 2005. The fee may please be deposited within 30 days from the receipt of this reply failing which your RTI will stand disposed of. |
| 4      | Timeline of the study.<br>Please provide clear copies of or verified links to any gazettes, notifications, circulars or any-other public communications, as well as reports, budget documents, expense statements, invoices, meeting notes, checklists, office memos or emails that provide information on this matter. See Section 2(i) and 2(j) of the RTI Act (2005). | Please see Annexure-1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

In case, you are not satisfied with the information provided above, you may file an appeal to the First Appellate Authority indicated below within **thirty days** from the date of receipt of this letter.

Director, WII  
FAA & Director  
Address: Wildlife Institute of India, Chandrabani, Dehradun  
Phone No.: 01352640910

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

NO & CPIO (RTI)

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

**1st Floor, Agni Wing  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi 110 003**

Date: October,  
2020

To

**Director,  
Wildlife Institute of India,  
Post Box # 18, Chandrabani  
Dehradun - 248 001, Uttarakhand.  
Email: dwii@wii.gov.in**

**Sub: - Proposal for Tinaighat- Castlerock-Caranzol doubling of railway line by South Western Railways, Karnataka [Original Agenda Item No 58.5.1] Recommendations of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life in 59th Meeting-Reg.**

Sir,

The proposal of doubling of Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol railway line by South Western Railways, Karnataka was considered in 59<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life (SCNBWL) as agenda item No 59.2.16, wherein the Committee requested the Director, WII to complete the study within a period of two months and decided to defer the proposal.

2. In view of the above, undersigned is directed to forward the approved minutes of 59<sup>th</sup> SCNBWL meeting held during 5.10.2020 [Annexure] for necessary action. It is requested to submit the study report within the stipulated time period to enable the Ministry to take further necessary action.

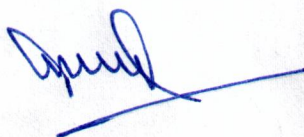
**Encl:** As above

Yours Faithfully,

**(Rakesh Kumar Jagenia)**  
Deputy Inspector General of Forests (WL)  
Email: digwl-mefcc@gov.in

**Copy to:**

**The Chief Wild Life Warden,  
Govt. of Karnataka,  
Aranya Bhawan,  
18th Cross, Malleswaram,  
Bengaluru-560003  
Email: pccfwl@gmail.com**





**F. No.6-101/2020 WL**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Wildlife Division)**

\*\*\*

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Agni Block,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi-110003

**Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**

To,

All Members  
Standing Committee of NBWL

**Sub: Minutes of 59<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife-  
Reg.**

Sir/Madam,

Kindly find enclosed copy of the minutes of 59<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life held on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Environment Forest & Climate Change, Government of India.

Yours faithfully,

(Rakesh Kumar Jagenia)

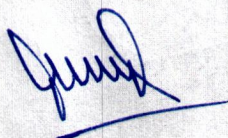
Dy. Inspector General of Forests (WL)  
Email: digwl-mefcc@gov.in

**Distribution**

1. Secretary, MoEF & CC
2. DGF&SS, MoEF&CC.
3. ADGF(WL), MOEF&CC.
4. ADGF(FC), MoEF&CC.
5. Member Secretary, NTCA
6. Director/IGF, PE Division, MoEF&CC.
7. Director, WII, Dehradun.
8. Director, GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar
9. Dr. R. Sukumar, Member, NBWL
10. Dr. H.S. Singh, Member, NBWL
11. Pr. Secretary, Forest Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

**Copy To:**

1. PS to Hon'ble MoEF&CC.
2. PS to Hon'ble MoSEF&CC
3. PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC.
4. PPS to Addl.DGF(WL), PPS to IGF(WL).
5. Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/Secretary, Forest Department of Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Telangana, Kerala, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Bihar.
6. PCCF & HOFF of Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Telangana, Kerala, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Bihar.
7. CWLW of Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Telangana, Kerala, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Bihar.





The Member Secretary informed that even the two online proposals are yet to be recommended and forwarded by the State Government.

**Decision Taken:** The Standing Committee therefore decided to **defer** the proposals, till the State government forwards the proposals with complete documents, as per the prescribed guidelines and procedures.

**59.2.16 Proposal for Tinaighat- Castlerock-Caranzol Railway doubling of South Western Railways, Karnataka-[File No 6-55/2020 WL; State: Karnataka; Original Agenda Item No 58.5.1]**

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that above proposal was considered by SC\_NBWL in its 58th meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 wherein the Committee deferred the proposal till the receipt of report from the NTCA for further consideration in the matter. The NTCA vide its letter No 7-12/2020 NTCA dated 22.07.2020 while recommending the proposal, has desired a detailed study for prescribing mitigation measures in the terrain might be conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The matter was then examined in the Ministry and it was decided to request WII to conduct the study and send report within three weeks. The WII informed that it would require more time for study and also financial assistance.

**Decision Taken:** Based on the discussion held and documents submitted, the Standing Committee requested the Director, WII to complete the study within a period of two months and decided to **defer** the proposal.

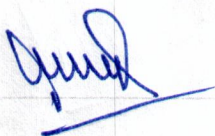
**AGENDA No.3**

**(Policy Matters, Court Orders/Rationalization of Boundaries of Protected Areas)**

**59.3.1 Advisory on Human Wildlife Conflict Management**

The Member Secretary informed the Standing Committee that the Constitution of India enshrines that it is the duty of every citizen to protect wildlife. India is a mega-biodiverse rich country and is also one of the highly populated country in the world. Several ecological and anthropological factors have led to more and more cases of negative interactions between humans and wildlife. Animals like Vanroz (blue-bull), wild pig, elephant, tiger, leopard, bear etc. are few major species that come in conflict with humans.

A brief presentation was made on the above issue and draft 'Advisory on Human Wildlife Conflict Management' was placed before the Committee. Prof. Sukumar informed that he has sent his comments and suggestions on the draft advisory and the same to be incorporated in the advisory. The Chairman suggested that the Panchayati Raj Institutions should be given more active role in dealing with human-wildlife conflicts.





**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

|    |                                                     |                  |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1  | Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for EF&CC  | Chairman         |
| 2  | Shri R. P. Gupta, Secretary, MoEF&CC                | Member           |
| 3  | Shri Sanjay Kumar, DGF&SS, MoEF&CC                  | Member           |
| 4  | Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, ADGF (WL), MoEF&CC          | Member Secretary |
| 5  | Prof. R. Sukumar, Member, NBWL                      | Member           |
| 6  | Dr. H. S. Singh, Member, NBWL                       | Member           |
| 7  | Shri R. D. Kamboj, Member, NBWL                     | Member           |
| 8  | Dr. Dhananjay Mohan, Member, NBWL                   | Member           |
| 9  | Shri S.K. Ratho, ADGF (FC)                          | Invitee          |
| 10 | Dr. S. P. Yadav, ADGF(PT) and MS, NTCA              | Invitee          |
| 11 | Shri M. K. Yadava, CWLW, Assam                      | Invitee          |
| 12 | Shri Prabhat Kumar Gupta, CWLW, Bihar               | Invitee          |
| 13 | Shri Shyamal Tikedar, CWLW, Gujarat                 | Invitee          |
| 14 | Shri Suresh Kumar Gupta, CWLW, Jammu & Kashmir      | Invitee          |
| 15 | Shri Surendra Kumar, CWLW, Kerala                   | Invitee          |
| 16 | Shri Alok Kumar, CWLW, Madhya Pradesh               | Invitee          |
| 17 | Shri Subhash Malkhede, APCCF (Wildlife), Karnataka  | Invitee          |
| 18 | Shri Sidhanand Kukrety, APCCF (Wildlife), Telangana | Invitee          |
| 19 | Shri Arindam Tomar, CWLW, Rajasthan                 | Invitee          |
| 20 | Shri Sunil Pandey, CWLW, Uttar Pradesh              | Invitee          |
| 21 | Shri J. S. Suhag, CWLW, Uttarakhand                 | Invitee          |
| 22 | Shri Amit Mallick, IGF (WL), MoEF & CC              | Invitee          |
| 23 | Shri Rakesh Kr Jagenia, DIGF(WL, MoEF&CC            | Invitee          |
| 24 | Shri Amit Vashishtha, Scientist D, MoEF&CC          | Invitee          |



**Proposal for detailed study for prescribing mitigation measures  
for the doubling of the Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caronzol SWR  
railway track, Karnataka**

**Financial Proposal  
Wildlife Institute of India**



*[Handwritten signature]*

**Submitted on  
21<sup>st</sup> October 2020**



**भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India**



**Scientific and Technical Team**  
**Wildlife Institute of India**

Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, I.F.S., Director *Project Leader*  
Dr. Y.V. Jhala, Scientist G, Dean *Project Adviser*  
Prof. Qamar Qureshi Scientist G *Project Adviser*

*Senior Professional Fellow*  
Dr. Asha Rajvanshi

*Faculty*  
Dr. Bilal Habib, Scientist E  
Dr. Malvika Onial, Scientist D  
Dr. Abhijit Das, Scientist D  
Dr. Navendu Page, Scientist C

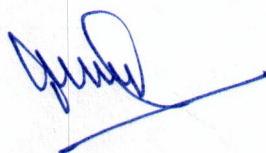


**Duration of the Project: 2 Months**



**Final Proposal (Budget Details):**

| Head                         | Particulars                                                              | Cost Calculation                                                                                                                             | Amount (INR) |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| A. Technical human resources | Faculty/Fellow time                                                      | 5 persons X<br>0.5-month X Rs 1.75 lakh/month                                                                                                | 4,37,500.00  |
|                              | Senior Project Associate = 7 (@Rs. 42,000/month Plus 16% HRA x 2 months) | 7 persons X Rs 48,720 /month X 2 months                                                                                                      | 6,82,080.00  |
|                              | Field assistants (05)                                                    | (5x15000) x 2 months                                                                                                                         | 1,50,000.00  |
| Sub-total (A)                |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                              | 12,69,580.00 |
| B. Field logistics           | Air fare between HQ and project field site                               | 12 economy return airfares @ Rs 25,000 per return journey (Journey for 12-member team from WII to field)                                     | 3,00,000.00  |
|                              | Vehicle hiring                                                           | two four-wheel drive vehicles X 30 days X Rs 3500/day                                                                                        | 2,10,000.00  |
|                              | Field camping cost                                                       | Logistical cost at field site for 12 member WII team @ 2500/per-day/per-person for 30 days field work (This also includes DA of WII faculty) | 9,00,000.00  |
| Sub-total (B)                |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                              | 14,10,000.00 |
| Ancillary Data               | Spatial data procurement and analysis                                    | Lumpsum                                                                                                                                      | 3,00,000.00  |
| Sub-total (C)                |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                              | 3,00,000.00  |
| D.                           | Miscellaneous (Report etc.,)                                             | Lumpsum                                                                                                                                      | 2,00,000.00  |
| Sub-total (A+B+C+D)          |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                              | 35,54,580.00 |
| Institutional Charges        | @15% on Sub-total (A+B+C+D)                                              |                                                                                                                                              | 4,76,937.00  |
| GRAND TOTAL                  |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                              | 36,56,517.00 |

**Total: 36,56,517.00 INR****Thirty-six lakhs fifty-six thousand five hundred and seventeen only.**






*Handwritten signature*

**Dr. Dhananjai Mohan**  
Director  
Wildlife Institute of India, Chandrabani  
Dehradun, India 248 001  
Tell: 00 91 135 2646101  
Fax: 00 91 135 2640117  
E-mail: [dwii@wii.gov.in](mailto:dwii@wii.gov.in)

 भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India



December 2020

Annexure - 3

# MITIGATION MEASURES FOR DOUBLING OF THE TINIAGHAT - CASTLEROCK - CARONZOL SWR RAILWAY TRACK, KARNATAKA



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India

*Total 108 pages in this  
Report*



*WII*



December 2020

## MITIGATION MEASURES FOR DOUBLING OF THE TINIAGHAT – CASTLEROCK – CARONZOL SWR RAILWAY TRACK, KARNATAKA



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India









**“I strongly believe that tiger conservation, or conservation of nature, is not a drag on development. Both can happen in a mutually complementary manner. All we need is to re-orient our strategy by factoring in the concerns of the tiger in sectors where tiger conservation is not the goal. This is a difficult task but can be achieved. Our genius lies in “smartly” integrating the tiger and wildlife safeguards in various infrastructures at the landscape level. This essentially takes us to the much needed “Smart Green Infrastructure”, while adopting a landscape approach”.**

**Shri. Narendra Modi**  
**Hon’ble Prime Minister of India**

12<sup>th</sup> April 2016; New Delhi  
3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Ministerial conference  
on Tiger Conservation





**Further Contact:**

**Director**

Wildlife Institute of India, Chandrabani  
Dehradun, India 248 001  
Tell: 00 91 135 2646101  
Fax: 00 91 135 2640117  
E-mail: [dwii@wii.gov.in](mailto:dwii@wii.gov.in)

**Photo Credits:**

Dr. Bilal Habib

**Citation:** Wildlife Institute of India (2020): Mitigation measures for doubling of the Tiniaghat – Castlerock-Caronzoli, SWR Railway Track, Karnataka. Technical Report, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. Tr. No.2020/18, Pp. 108.



# MITIGATION MEASURES

## Major Bridges

No. = 2

Total Length = 67 m

Average Size =  $33.5 \pm 4.31$  (m)

% of Total Mitigation = 2.69 %

## Animal Overpasses

No. = 4

Total Length = 75 m

Average Size =  $18.75 \pm 2.5$  (m)

% of Total Mitigation = 3.00 %

## Tunnels

No. = 6

Total Length = 1610 m

Average Size =  $268 \pm 162.80$  (m)

% of Total Mitigation = 64.66 %

## Animal Underpasses

No. = 3

Total Length = 80 m

Average Size =  $26.6 \pm 20.81$  (m)

% of Total Mitigation = 3.21 %

## RCC Box & Slab Culverts

No. = 47

Total Length = 374.6 m

Average Size =  $7.79 \pm 5.59$  (m)

% of Total Mitigation = 15.0 %

## Level Crossing

No. = 6

Total Length = 285 m

Average Size =  $47.5 \pm 6.12$  (m)

% of Total Mitigation = 11.4 %



The proposed mitigation measures are aimed at minimising the presence of herpetofauna on the railway track, thus reducing rail induced mortality.



To enhance connectivity for arboreal species in the landscape, provision of canopy bridges has been recommended at every kilometer of the railway track.



Wildlife crossing structures have been recommended at an average distance of 250 - 300 meters all across the railway track.



# Acknowledgments

We acknowledge the support from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Karnataka, and the field staff of Kali Tiger Reserve during our field survey. We are thankful to Field Director Kali Tiger Reserve for all required permissions and extending necessary support during our field survey. We are thankful to the local railway department and RVNL for all the necessary support.

## **Scientific and Technical Team** **Wildlife Institute of India**

### **Project Leader**

Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, I.F.S., Director

### **Project Advisors**

Dr. Y.V. Jhala, Scientist G, Dean, FWS

Prof. Qamar Qureshi Scientist G

### **Faculty**

Dr. Bilal Habib, Scientist E

Dr. Malvika Onial, Scientist D

Dr. Abhijit Das, Scientist D

Dr. Navendu Page, Scientist C

### **Senior Professional Fellow**

Dr. Asha Rajvanshi

### **Subject Matter Specialist**

Dr. S. P. Goyal

### **Researchers**

Akanksha Saxena, Senior Research Fellow

Bitupan Boruah, Junior Research Fellow

Zehidul Hussain, Senior Project Associate

Lynette Gomes, Junior Research Fellow

Krishnendu Banerjee, Project Assistant

Swati Nawani, Project Assistant

Akash Agarwal, Project Coordinator

Kathan Bandyopadhyay, Project Intern







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## Executive Summary

The Indian Railway network, spread across 1,23,542 km (as of 2018-2019), is a vital component of transportation infrastructure since its inception in 1850. The railways have been pivotal in integrating markets, increasing trade, shaping finances besides serving as the backbone of linear transportation services. Even though railways are regarded to be an environmentally friendly option when compared to other forms of linear infrastructure, the development and expansion of rail networks pose challenges to the environment and biodiversity of the forest areas it passes through. Railways can pose both physical and behavioral barriers to wildlife and have negative impacts such as disturbance and mortality on populations living in proximity.

The Railway Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) has proposed the doubling of the existing railway track between Hospet, Tinaighat, and Vasco Port that measures 345 km in length. The sanctioned project consists of 2 main phases: doubling of a line between Hospet and Tinaighat (Phase I) and between Tinaighat and Vasco (Phase II). At present, the existing single line limits the capacity of running trains in the critical *ghat* (hilly) section. Given the terrain of the region, landslides during the monsoons interfere with the functioning of the line. RVNL has justified the doubling of the railway track by stating that in addition to improving mobility and all-weather rail links in the region, the proposed doubling would also increase connectivity, trade, and commerce, enhance tourist flow, augment intermediate railway station facilities, and reduce bottlenecks of railway traffic in the *ghat* section.

The Western Ghats that extend along the south-western parts of India, is known to harbour a wide diversity of flora and fauna and is one of the four biodiversity hotspots of the Indian subcontinent. In terms of faunal diversity, the area is home to about 30% of Asian elephant population, about 33% of India's wild tiger population and about 26% of India's leopard population (Jhala et al., 2019; Jhala et al., 2020). The landscape forms one of the largest and most contiguous protected area networks in the country. Within the Western Ghats, the Anshi-Dandeli-Sharavathi Valley complex consists of the protected areas of Mollem-Netravali, Anshi-Dandeli, Sharavathi Valley-Mookambika along with reserved forests of Goa which continue to the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra. The major tiger source population in the complex is that of the Anshi National Park and Dandeli WLS (Qureshi et al., 2014) that together form the Kali Tiger Reserve. Among the important tiger source populations in the landscape is the Anshi and Dandeli tiger population that provides a critical link to the northern Western Ghats, extending up to Goa and South Maharashtra (Sahyadris), which is threatened by anthropogenic activities such as land-use conversion and construction of linear infrastructure.

The landscape is also home to 252 species of amphibians with 90% endemics, 108 species of reptiles with 56% endemics (Dahanukar & Molur, 2020; Srinivasulu et al. 2015), and about 600 species of evergreen woody plants with more than 60% endemic. In the past decade, more than 100 species of amphibians and ~50 species of reptiles have been discovered from Western Ghats (Aengles et al., 2018; Dahanukar & Molur, 2020; reptiledatabase.org). The area where the railway doubling is proposed falls in the Uttara Kannada region of the northern Western Ghats which is known to harbor approximately 50 species of amphibians that constitute almost one-fourth of the total Western Ghats amphibian diversity (Ramachandra et al., 2012). The approved alignment of the proposed line is parallel to the existing railway line and mostly lies within the railway land. However, the new railway



line is deemed to pass through the Kali (formerly Anshi-Dandeli) Tiger Reserve in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka and would impact the ecosystem during the construction and operational phase.

Considering the irreplaceable ecological importance of the landscape and the critical link it provides for the Western Ghats, the project was required to obtain environmental clearance that included an environmental impact assessment study and a mitigation plan to reduce, offset and mitigate the negative impacts of the proposed doubling. A biodiversity assessment for the proposed line was then conducted by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) during the years 2017-2020.

### ***Environmental and Biodiversity Assessment by IISc***

Two environmental assessment reports were submitted by IISc (Sukumar and Sitharam, 2017 and Suresh et al., 2020), detailing the floral and faunal studies of the project area in two stretches of the proposed railway track (Kulem to Castlerock, and Castlerock to Tinaighat). The authors carried out detailed assessments on the vegetation of the area during both study periods, and the structural and functional aspects of vegetation, and forecasts of a loss of vegetation in alternative rail alignment scenarios were reported. For mammals, sign surveys, camera trapping, and opportunistic sightings were recorded to assess the presence of mammals near the railway track and to identify areas of high animal activity and movement. As a result, stretches of railway tracks specified by chainages and critical animal crossing zones were reported. General recommendations for mitigation were proposed for such areas. For the herpetofaunal component, the studies documented the diversity and rail kills of amphibians and reptiles in and around the study area. However, no specific mitigation measures were provided aimed at reducing the impacts on amphibians and reptiles.

### ***Directives to WII***

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) was subsequently requested to undertake the task of proposing mitigation measures for the proposed railway track doubling project by the DIG (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India vide Letter F. No. 6-55/2020WL(part) dated 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 recommending that “*detailed study for prescribing mitigation measures in this difficult terrain may be conducted by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The study may cover the entire 25 km stretch of the project area from Castlerock in the Karnataka side to Kulem in Goa. The detailed study should focus on structural and non-structural mitigation measures, use of deterrents (audio-visual), an early warning system for animal detection, speed restrictions etc.*” as suggested by NTCA in its O.M. No. NTCA O.M. F.No.7-12/2020-NTCA dated 22<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Subsequently, the National Board of Wildlife in its 59<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 decided to defer the proposal of the Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol railway doubling of South Western Railways, Karnataka, and a request to WII was made to conduct a detailed study for prescribing mitigation measures in the terrain and to submit a report vide letter File No.6-55/2020WL(part) dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Thereafter, a proposal for the present study on the aforementioned stretch of was submitted by WII.

### ***Field assessment by WII***

With this background, the objective of the study by WII was to assess the length of existing and proposed railway track to suggest site-specific mitigation measures that will reduce the barrier effect,



allow permeability for wildlife movement across the railway, and minimize rail-induced mortality. We carried out a rapid survey from 19<sup>th</sup> November to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The main aims of the exercise were:

1. To assess potential animal crossing zones along the existing and proposed railway track.
2. To carry out inventory of herpetofauna along the railway track, identify potential microhabitats along the track.
3. Coalesce information obtained from field survey with baseline data in IISc assessment reports (2017, 2020), and
4. Suggest site-specific mitigation measures based on the intensive track survey, information obtained from field study and IISc reports.

To identify potential animal crossing zones, we carried out camera trapping and sign surveys along the railway tracks. We also used rail mortality data from the Karnataka forest department and any opportunistic sighting or sign encountered during the survey to identify such areas. Visual encounter surveys, opportunistic surveys, stratified plot sampling, and collection of opportunistic rail kill data to assess the herpetofaunal diversity and identify critical zones for mitigation. We also surveyed the entire length of the existing alignment accompanied by a railway engineer to assess the proposed rail alignment, and review the crossing and drainage structures proposed by the railways in terms of suitability for animal crossing. The scope of constructing additional mitigation structures based on topography, probability of animal movement and engineering constraints was discussed on field.

### ***Summary of results***

Camera trapping spanning 660 trap nights yielded 156 captures of 17 mammals species along the railway track. We recorded 203 animal signs through sign surveys of 175 habitat plots near the railway track. A total of 47 species of herpetofauna was recorded during the survey. This number is expected to be higher since the study was conducted within a short period during the non-breeding season. The study revealed that perennial and seasonal streams, and ephemeral water bodies were crucial habitats for herpetofauna. Camera trap data indicated that tunnels along the railway track are being used as natural passages by animals for their movement across the landscape.

Hotspots of animal activity were visualized by overlapping all animal signs, sightings, photo-captures and mortality data using kernel density analysis on GIS-platform. These were then combined with the hotspots identified in the IISc reports, and potential multi-taxa animal crossing zones were thus delineated.

### ***Mitigation measures for the railway track***

Mitigation measures for the proposed railway track evolved through a multi-step simultaneous process. We first evaluated the existing and proposed drainage and crossing structures on field, assessed the possibility of making the structures more suitable for wildlife movement and constructing additional non-drainage crossing structures, and finally overlapped potential multi-taxa crossing zones to finalise the location and dimensions of the crossing structures.



Given below are details of the proposed mitigation measures on the existing and proposed railway track (Tables 1 & 2; Figures 1 & 2). It is important to assert that the recommended measures are to be implemented on both the existing and the proposed railway track for the measures to be effective. Once the mitigation measures are completed on the new track, railways can initiate the construction of mitigation measures on the existing track in a phased manner. Areas between mitigation measures need to be fenced to avoid animal hits by rail, and to funnel animals towards the mitigation measures. This would also discourage animals from entering the railway track.

**Table 1:** Mitigation measures recommended on the existing and proposed railway tracks in the Tinaighat to Castlerock segment (Chainage 12/000 to 25/000)

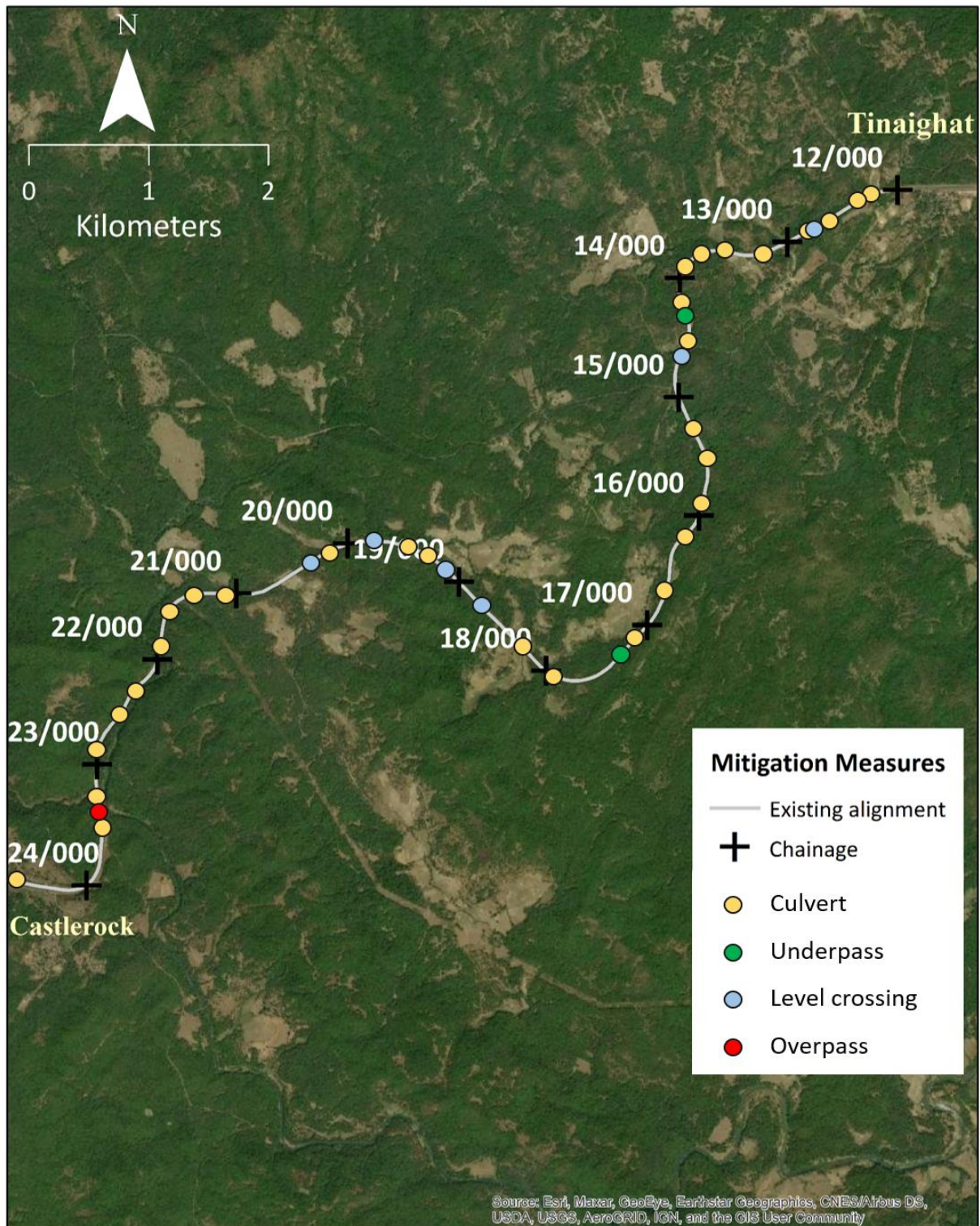
| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                         | Structures Planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                         | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                         |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure Type                       | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x Width x Height) | Structure Type                               | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x Width x Height) | Structure Type                                                   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x Width x Height) |
| 1.     | 12/233   | Arch culvert                         | 1 x 1.52 x 4.25                         | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.52 x 4.25                         | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 4.5                             |
| 2.     | 12/350   | Pipe culvert                         | 1 x 2 x 0.8                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2 x 2                               | RCC Box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 2                               |
| 3.     | 12/702   | Pipe culvert                         | 1 x 2 x 0.3                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.55 x 1.80                         | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 1.55 x 1.80                         |
| 4.     | 12/795   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Level crossing                                                   | 30-35 (width)                           |
| 5.     | 12/812   | RCC slab                             | 1x 2 x 1.46                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3.760 x 1.5                         | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 3.760 x 1.5                         |
| 6.     | 13/118   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.55 x 2.55                         | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.55 x 2.55                         | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 2.55 x 2.55                         |
| 7.     | 13/597   | RCC box                              | 2 x 1.25 x 1.5                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3.05 x 1.8                          | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 2                               |
| 8.     | 13/772   | RCC pipe                             | 1 x 1 x 1.2                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.2 x 1.5                           | RCC box                                                          | 3 x 5 x 2.5                             |
| 9.     | 13/993   | RCC box                              | 1 x 1.02 x 0.625                        | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3 x 1.8                             | RCC box                                                          | 4 x 5 x 2                               |
| 10.    | 14/230   | RCC pipe                             | 1x 2 x 1.22                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3 x 1.8                             | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 5                               |
| 11.    | 14/295   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.55 x 2.3                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.55 x 2.3                          | Underpass                                                        | 1 x 20 x 4.5                            |
| 12.    | 14/550   | RCC box                              | 1 x 3.08 x 1.55                         | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3.08 x 1.8                          | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 3.08 x 1.8                          |
| 13.    | 14/650   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Level crossing with early warning system                         | 50 (width)                              |
| 14.    | 15/213   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.35 x 2.65                         | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.35 x 2.65                         | RCC box                                                          | 4 x 5 x 3                               |
| 15.    | 15/552   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.45 x 2.0                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.45 x 2.0                          | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 4.5                             |
| 16.    | 15/962   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.4 x 1.85                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.4 x 1.85                          | RCC box                                                          | 3 x 5 x 4.5                             |
| 17.    | 16/188   | Pipe culvert                         | 1 x 2 x 1.25                            | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.92 x 1.8                          | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 2.5                             |
| 18.    | 16/688   | RCC box                              | 1 x 1.83 x 2.88                         | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.83 x 2.88                         | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 3                               |
| 19.    | 17/074   | RCC pipe                             | 1 x 1.2                                 | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.2 x 1.8                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 2                               |
| 20.    | 17/280   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Underpass                                                        | 2 x 5 x 3                               |
| 21.    | 17/950   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Underpass                                                        | 1 x 50 x 5.5                            |
| 22.    | 18/251   | RCC box                              | 2 x 3.34 x 3.6                          | RCC box                                      | 2 x 3.34 x 3.6                          | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 3.34 x 3.6                          |
| 23.    | 18/800   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Level crossing with early warning system                         | 50 (width)                              |
| 24.    | 19/060   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Level crossing with early warning system                         | 50 (width)                              |



|     |        |                      |                 |          |                 |                                          |               |
|-----|--------|----------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 25. | 19/292 | RCC pipe for culvert | 1 X 2 x 1.2     | RCC box  | 1 x 3 x 1.8     | RCC box                                  | 4 x 5 x 3.5   |
| 26. | 19/520 | RCC box              | 1 x 2.35 x 2.5  | RCC box  | 1 x 2.35 x 2.5  | RCC box                                  | 5 x 5 x 3.5   |
| 27. | 19/850 |                      | NIL             |          | NIL             | Level crossing with early warning system | 50 (width)    |
| 28. | 20/190 | RCC pipe culvert     | 1 X 1 x 1.2     | RCC box  | 1 x 1.2 x 1.8   | RCC box                                  | 2 x 2 x 2     |
| 29. | 20/350 |                      | NIL             |          | NIL             | Level crossing with early warning system | 50 (width)    |
| 30. | 21/002 | RCC box              | 2 x 2.6 x 3.65  | RCC box  | 1 x 5.5 x 3.65  | RCC box                                  | 3 x 5 x 5     |
| 31. | 21/381 | RCC pipe for culvert | 1 x 1 x 1.2     | RCC box  | 1 x 1.2 x 1.8   | RCC box                                  | 1 x 4 x 2     |
| 32. | 21/655 | RCC pipe for culvert | 1 x 1.2 x 2.85  | RCC box  | 1 x 1.2 x 2.85  | RCC box                                  | 2 x 4 x 4     |
| 33. | 21/978 | Arch                 | 1 x 5 x 12.2    | PSC Slab | 1 x 5 x 12.2    | PSC Slab                                 | 1 x 5 x 12.2  |
| 34. | 22/301 | RCC box              | 1 x 1.52 x 3.72 | RCC box  | 1 x 1.52 x 3.72 | RCC box                                  | 1 x 5 x 5     |
| 35. | 22/630 | RCC pipe for culvert | 1 x 1 x 0.9     | RCC box  | 1 x 0.9 x 1.5   | RCC box                                  | 2 x 3 x 2     |
| 36. | 22/860 | RCC box              | 1 x 2.42 x 2.13 | RCC box  | 1 x 2.42 x 2.13 | RCC box                                  | 3 x 3 x 3     |
| 37. | 23/279 | RCC slab             | 1 x 4 x 7       | RCC slab | 2 x 4 x 7       | RCC slab                                 | 3 x 5 x 7     |
| 38. | 23/495 | RCC pipe culvert     | 1 x 3 x 1.2     | RCC box  | 1 x 4.7 x 1.5   | RCC box                                  | 2 x 5 x 2.5   |
| 39. | 23/450 |                      | NIL             |          | NIL             | Overpass with light and sound barrier    | 20 (width)    |
| 40. | 24/887 | RCC slab             | 1 x 2.4 x 2.2   | RCC slab | 1 x 2.4 x 2.2   | RCC slab                                 | 1 x 2.4 x 2.2 |







**Figure 1:** Mitigation measures recommended on the existing and proposed railway tracks in the Tinaighat to Castlerock segment (Chainage 12/000 to 25/000)



**Table 2:** Mitigation measures recommended on the existing and proposed railway tracks in the Castlerock-Caranzol segment (Chainage 25/000 to 29/900)

| S. No. | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                  |                                         | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                  |                                         | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                         |
|--------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|        | Chainage                             | Structure Type   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x Width x Height) | Chainage                                     | Structure Type   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x Width x Height) | Structure Type                                                   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x Width x Height) |
| 1.     | 25/450                               | RCC box          | 1 x 2 x 2.97                            | 25/455                                       | RCC box          | 2 x 3.0 x 3.0                           | RCC box                                                          | 3 x 5 x 4                               |
| 2.     | 25/710                               | RCC pipe culvert | 1 x 1 x 0.61                            | 25/708                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 4                               |
| 3.     | 26/015                               | RCC box          | 1 x 1 x 2.54                            | 26/005                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 3                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 6 x 5                               |
| 4.     | 26/110                               | RCC pipe         | 1 x 1 x 1.22                            | 26/100                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 2.4 x 1.5                           |
| 5.     | 26/220                               | RCC slab         | 1 x 1 x 1.98                            | 26/212                                       | RCC box          | 2 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 3 x 1.2                             |
| 6.     | 26/380                               | RCC slab         | 1 x 2 x 1.22                            | 26/378                                       | RCC box          | 2 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 2.5 x 1.2                           |
| 7.     | 26/482                               | RCC box          | 1 x 1 x 2.44                            | 26/480                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 3                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 5                               |
| 8.     | 26/535                               | NIL              |                                         |                                              | NIL              |                                         | Overpass                                                         | 20 (width)                              |
| 9.     | 26/634                               | RCC slab         | 1 x 1 x 3.05                            | 26/635                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 2                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 3 x 3                               |
| 10.    | 26/733                               | RCC pipe         | 1 x 1 x 0.61                            | 26/732                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           |
| 11.    | 26/790                               | RCC box          | 1 x 1 x 2.44                            | 26/787                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 2                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 6 x 3                               |
| 12.    | 26/903                               | Arch             | 1 x 1 x 2.45                            | 26/902                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 4                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 4                               |
| 13.    | 26/960                               | NIL              |                                         |                                              | NIL              |                                         | Overpass                                                         | 15 (width)                              |
| 14.    | 27/032                               | RCC slab         | 1x 1 x 3.05                             | 27/033                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 2                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 3                               |
| 15.    | 27/150                               | Composite girder | 1 x 12.29 + 1 x 18.29                   | 27/130                                       | Composite Girder | 1 x 18.3 + 1 x 12.2                     | Composite Girder                                                 | 1 x 18.3 + 1 x 12.2                     |
| 16.    | 27/400                               | RCC pipe culvert | 1 x 1 x 1.2                             | 27/373                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 2 x 1.8                             | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 4 x 2                               |
| 17.    | 27/836                               | RCC pipe culvert | 1x 4 x 1.22                             | 27/813                                       | RCC box          | 2 x 3 x 2                               | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 5                               |
| 18.    | 27/180 – 27/275                      | Tunnel           | 95                                      | 27/150 – 27/335                              | Tunnel           | 185                                     |                                                                  |                                         |
| 19.    | 28/122                               | RCC slab         | 1x 1 x 2.21                             | 28/100                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 4                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 5                               |
| 20.    | 28/300                               | RCC slab         | 1 x 1 x 0.91                            | Alignment in tunnel                          |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 21.    | 28/765                               | Arch             | 1 x 1 x 2.59                            |                                              |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 22.    | 28/908                               | RCC box          | 1 x 2 x 3.05                            |                                              |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 23.    | 28/300 – 28/710                      | Tunnel           | 410                                     | 28/160 – 28/750                              | Tunnel           | 590                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 590                                     |
| 24.    | 28/925 – 29/100                      | Tunnel           | 175                                     | 28/900 – 29/100                              | Tunnel           | 200                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 200                                     |
| 25.    | 29/110                               | RCC box          | 1 x 1 x 0.91                            | 29/104                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 3                               |
| 26.    | 29/177                               | RCC Arch         | 1 x 1 x 2.4                             | 29/177                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 3                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 4 x 5                               |
| 27.    | 29/345                               | NIL              |                                         |                                              | NIL              |                                         | Overpass                                                         | 20 (width)                              |
| 28.    | 29/433                               | RCC slab         | 1 x 1 x 2.47                            | Alignment in tunnel                          |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 29.    | 29/513                               | RCC slab         | 1 x 1 x 3.05                            |                                              |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 30.    | 29/613                               | RCC girder       | 4 x 18.29                               | 29/613                                       | Composite girder | 2 x 18.3                                | Composite girder                                                 | 2 x 18.3                                |
| 31.    | 29/818                               | RCC pipe         | 1 x 2 x 1.22                            | Alignment in tunnel                          |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 32.    | NIL                                  | NIL              | NIL                                     | 29/275 – 29/550                              | Tunnel           | 275                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 275                                     |
| 33.    | NIL                                  | NIL              | NIL                                     | 29/680 – 29/830                              | Tunnel           | 150                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 150                                     |
| 34.    | NIL                                  | NIL              | NIL                                     | 29/925 – 30/135                              | Tunnel           | 210                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 210                                     |



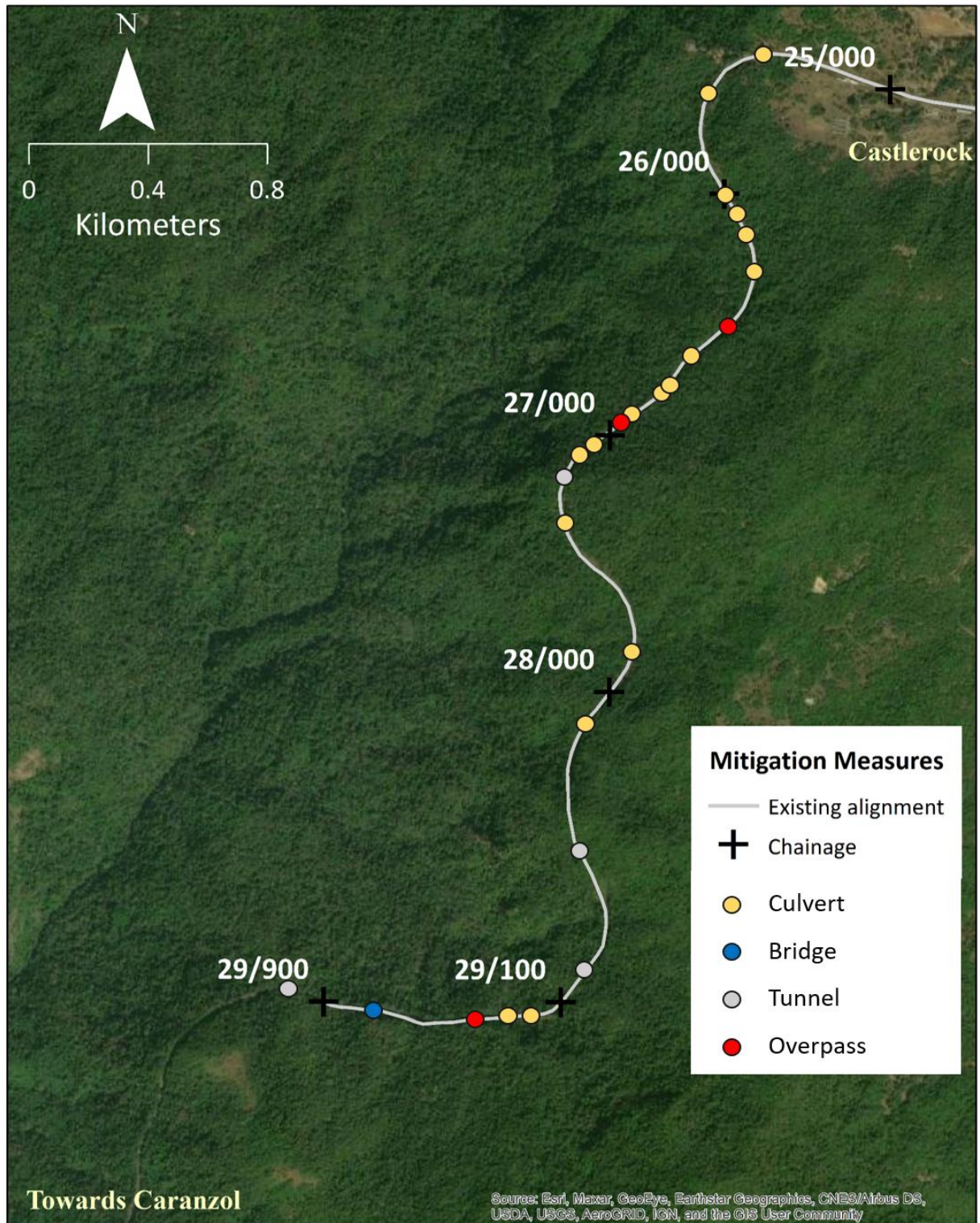


Figure 2: Mitigation measures recommended on the existing and proposed railway tracks in the Castlerock-Caranzol segment (Chainage 25/000 to 29/900)



## **CONSTRUCTION SUGGESTIONS FOR STRUCTURES PROPOSED TO BE MODIFIED TO FUNCTION AS ANIMAL CROSSING STRUCTURES**

- 1. The structure on the existing railway line can be extended as such to the new alignment. Our recommended structure should be constructed as an additional structure near the existing structure as per the suggested dimensions.**
- 2. The suggested modifications can be constructed in front of the existing structure on the new alignment. But the opening of the structure can be temporarily blocked to avoid any issue due to the wide opening of the new structure on the upstream side. The opening on the new alignment can be fully operational as mitigation measures when the construction of the mitigation measures as per recommended dimensions are undertaken on the existing track.**





## CHAPTER I: Introduction

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The railway system is a vital service in many societies across the globe and forms the core of transportation in a sustainable economy. Even for India, the railways remain a vital mode of transportation since its inception in 1850. This mode of transportation has been pivotal in integrating markets, increasing trade, shaping finances besides serving as the backbone of linear transportation services. The Indian Railway network is spread across 1,23,542 km (as of 2018-2019) which makes it the second largest railway networks in the world under a single management (MoSPI, 2019). Even though railways are regarded to be an environment friendly option when compared to roadways and airways, construction of new tracks, development and expansion of the networks poses new challenges to the environment and biodiversity of the adjacent areas.

The ill effects of railway construction and expansion has been well documented (Lucas et al., 2017; Borda-de-Água et al., 2017; Plămădeală & Slobodeanu, 2019). Railways can pose both physical and behavioural barriers to wildlife (Barrientos and Borda-de-Água, 2017) and have negative impacts on populations living in proximity. Evidence show that disturbance to wildlife can occur at various stages of life cycle because of the vibrations, noise and light associated to such constructions and operations (Rooyen, 2009; Wiacek et al., 2015).

### ***Project Background***

During the initial days when the metre gauge was being constructed for this route, earth work and tunnels were planned for a double track. However, this fore sight of the planners did not materialise since the line was to connect the British frontier to Bellary on a single line. So, in order to maintain uniformity of the track these structures which were planned never came in to existence (South Western Railway Press Release, 2020). Railway Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) proposed doubling of the existing railway track between Hospet, Tinaighat and Vasco Port that measures 345 km in length. The sanctioned project consists of 2 main phases: doubling of line between Hospet and Tinaighat (Phase I) and between Tinaighat and Vasco (Phase II). The proposed line is parallel to the existing railway line and lies within the railway land except for a few places and is deemed to pass through natural forests of the Western Ghats

The Railway Board of India stated that the land on which the track is proposed was owned by the Railways before 1980, the year in which the Forest Conservation Act was passed (FCA). The FCA, prohibits the usage of forested land for non-forested activities without prior approval from the Central Government. However, since the land was pre-owned by the Railways, the Act did not apply to the land. The Railways further clarified in a recent press release that no new land was being acquired for the proposed project (South Western Railway Press Release, 2020). However, RVNL had appointed IISC to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed doubling of the railway track before planning the project.

### ***Economic Importance of the Project***

The railway line for which doubling has been proposed is an important link of transportation between the Southern states and the State of Goa, and holds historical importance. The latter half of the nineteenth century saw the Portuguese trying to convince the British to build a railway track that would link Portuguese India (Goa) to British India. The Anglo-Portuguese Treaty of 1878 gave these negotiations a defined shape, and soon enough railway stations and a single railway track came up and started functioning.



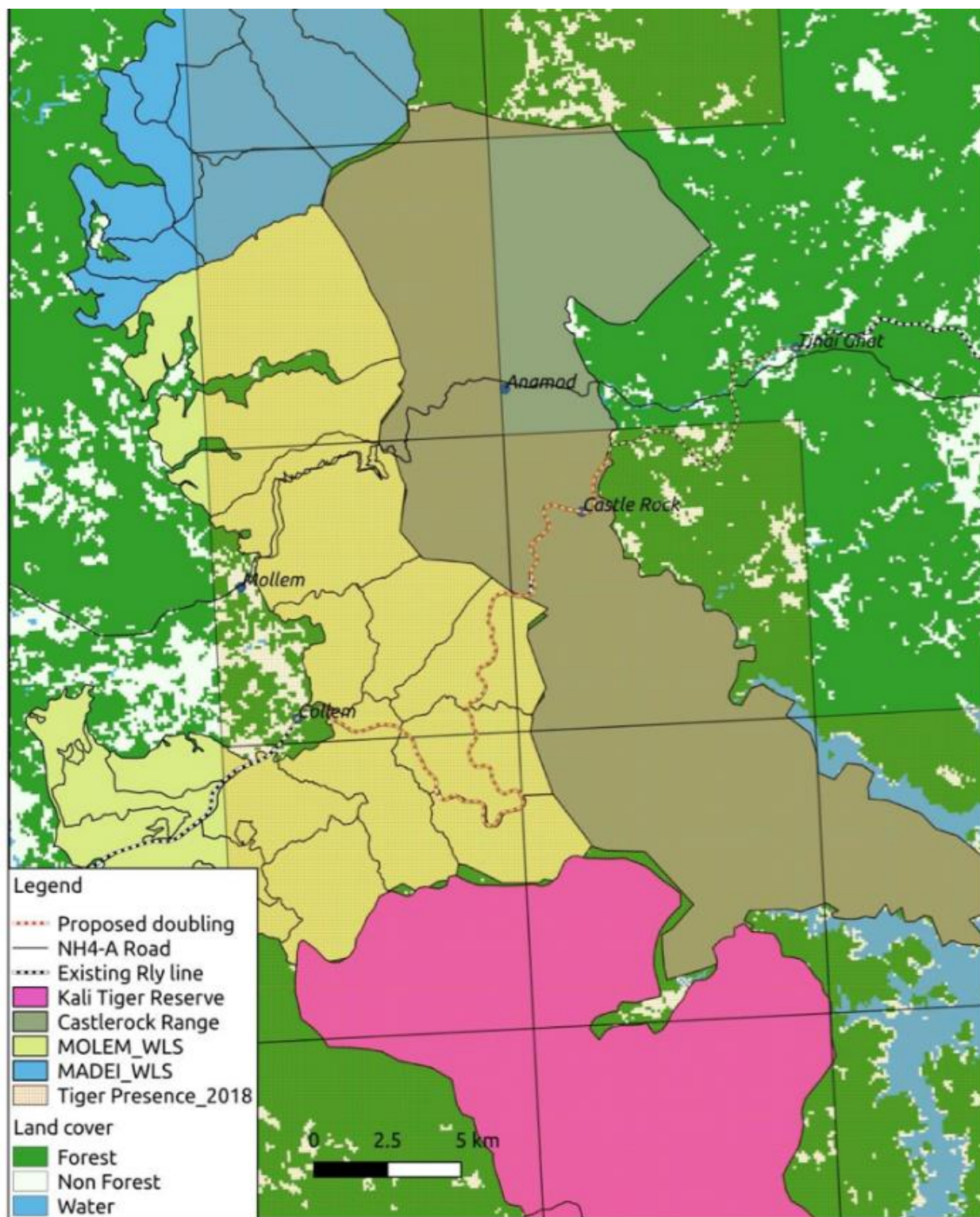
At present the existing single track limits the capacity of running trains in the critical *ghat* section. Given the terrain of the region, landslides during the monsoons interfere with the functioning of the track. RVNL elaborated that in addition to improving mobility and all-weather rail links in the region, the proposed doubling would also increase connectivity, trade and commerce, enhance tourist flow, augment intermediate railway station facilities, and reduce bottlenecks of railway traffic in the *ghat* section.

### **Project Site**

The proposed railway track passes through ecologically sensitive areas of the Western Ghats (Figure 1). The proposed doubling of railway track lies between the forested tracts of Tinaighat and Caranzol. Tinaighat is a small village on the Panjim (Goa)- Belgavi (Karnataka) highway. The forests of Tinaighat lie within Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary. Dandeli earned the status of a Wildlife Sanctuary in the year 1956. Part of the area was carved out from Anshi National Park in 1987. In 2007, both these areas were together declared as a Tiger Reserve and were renamed as Kali Tiger Reserve in 2015. Today, Kali Tiger Reserve along with other forested areas in both Goa and Maharashtra covers an area of about 2200 km<sup>2</sup>. The existing railway track between Tinaighat and Caranzol section lies within the Protected Area of Castlerock Range which is a part of Kali Tiger Reserve. The forest parts of Tinaighat and Castlerock are evergreen in nature and ecologically valuable for many herpetofauna, avifauna and mammals. Evergreen forests are seen in the Ghats of Castlerock, steep slopes and deep valleys. Most trees are of softwood species, which are relatively slender with clear boles in the deep soil.





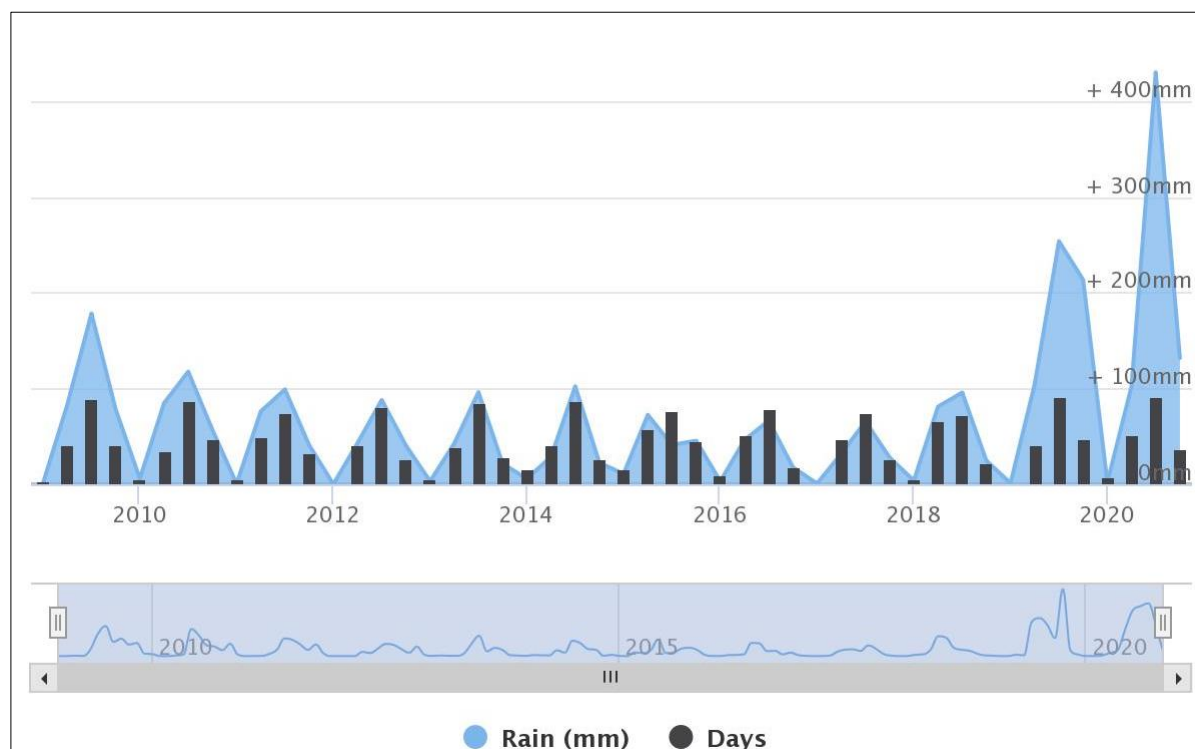


**Figure 1:** Alignment of proposed doubling of railway track passes through ecologically sensitive areas of the region viz., Kali Tiger Reserve, Molem Wildlife Sanctuary and Castlerock Range.



## Topography and Rainfall

The topography of the region is predominantly undulating with flat terrain in some stretches of the section. The stretch between Tinaighat to Castlerock is relatively flatter while the terrain from Castlerock towards Caranzol is undulating with cliffs and gorges. The study area receives high rainfall during the monsoons (June-September) due to the active southwest monsoon winds (Figure 2).



**Figure 2:** Observed annual rainfall around Castlerock area for 2010-2020 (Source: World Weather Online, 2020)

## Ecological Significance of Landscape

The Western Ghats that extends along the south-western parts of India, are known to harbour a wide diversity of flora and fauna. In terms of faunal diversity, the area is home to about 30% of Asian elephant population, 33% of India's wild tiger and about 26% of India's leopard population (Jhala et al., 2020a; Jhala et al., 2020b). Spread across 9 notified Tiger Reserves, 20 National Parks and about 68 Wildlife Sanctuaries (UNESCO, 2012), the landscape forms one of the largest and most contiguous protected area networks in the country. The railway track along which doubling is proposed passes through Castlerock range of the Kali (formerly Anshi-Dandeli) Tiger Reserve in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka. It is part of the Western Ghats Tiger conservation unit (Qureshi et al., 2014). Among the important tiger source populations in the landscape is the Anshi and Dandeli tiger population that provides a critical link to northern Western Ghats, extending up to Goa and South Maharashtra (Sahyadris).

Within the Western Ghats, the Anshi-Dandeli-Sharavathi Valley complex consists of the protected areas of Mollem-Netravali, Anshi-Dandeli, Sharavathi Valley-Mookambika along with reserved forests of Goa which continue to the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra. The major tiger source population in the complex is that of the Anshi National Park and Dandeli WLS (Qureshi et al., 2014) that together form the Kali Tiger Reserve.



Though the Western Ghats tiger populations are more connected with each other when compared to tiger populations in other landscapes, this connectivity is threatened by several anthropogenic activities such as plantations, agriculture, and infrastructure development. It is thereby critical to maintain the contiguity of the landscape for long-term conservation of tigers and associated species in this important landscape.

### **Floral wealth**

The entire biogeographic zone of Western Ghats incorporates a major genetic estate with a high degree of biodiversity and endemism (Bossuyt et al., 2004). The Tinaighat-Caranzol area is a part of this zone where the forest types can be classified into three distinct categories i.e., southern tropical evergreen forests, west coast semi-evergreen forest and moist deciduous forest. The southern tropical evergreen forests consist of tall trees with marked stratification. Important canopy species include *Holigarna grahamii*, *Canarium strictum*, *Garcinia* spp., *Diospyros* spp., *Syzygium* spp. The middle story includes *Polyalthia fragrans*, *Syzygium laetum*, *Memecylon* spp., *Psychotria dalzellii*, *Ixora nigricans* etc. Along the stream species such as *Calophyllum* spp., *Lophopetalum wightianum* and *Hydnocarpus pentandrus* are found. Important lianas of this forest type include *Entada rheedi*, *Ancistrocladus heyneanus*, *Paramignya monophylla* and *Toddalia asia*.

The west Coast semi-evergreen forest patches are present in between Southern tropical evergreen forest and moist deciduous forest. Important species include *Actinodaphne angustifolia*, *Lagerstroemia microcarpa*, *Macaranga peltata*, *Pterospermum diversifolium* etc. Shrub layer in this forest has species such as *Glycomis pentaphylla*, *Maesa indica*, *Leea indica*, *Gnidia glauca*. Some of the common herbs are *Asystasia* sp., *Impatiens* sp., and several grasses. Moist deciduous forest is frequent in lower elevations. Dominant species of this type include *Xylia xylocarpa*, *Lagerstroemia microcarpa*, *Dillenia pentagyna*, *Terminalia crenulata*, *Grewia* spp. etc. In the second story are found species such as *Catunaregam spinosa*, *Xantolis tomentosa*, *Strychnos nux-vomica*, *Canthium* spp. etc. Ground flora is rich in species belonging to families such as *Leguminosae*, *Rubiaceae*, *Euphorbiaceae* and *Asteraceae*.

According to the most conservative figures, the proposed project area has about 721 species of wild plants belonging to 490 genera and 119 families (Datar & Lakshminarasimhan, 2013). The entire forest tract can be broadly classified into four distinct categories- Southern tropical wet evergreen forest (1A), Southern tropical semi evergreen forest (2A), Tropical moist deciduous teak forest (3B), and Southern tropical dry deciduous forest (5A). Tinaighat to Caranzol division can be classified as the moist deciduous type which falls under the class of peninsular moist dry deciduous type (Champion and Seth, 1968). They are economically most valuable forests. Valuable timber species like *Tectona grandis*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, and *Terminalia elliptica* etc. Here, the top canopy of the deciduous species but lower and middle storeys are of semi evergreen growth, mainly due to the shrubs and medium size trees present in there. In the high canopy section *Tectona grandis*, *Terminalia elliptica*, *Lagestroemia lanceolata*, *Xylia xylocarpa*, *Terminalia paniculata*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Haldina cordifolia*, *Ougeinia dalbergioides*, *Mitragyna parviflora*, *Terminalia bellerica*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Albizia procera* etc. species are frequent. In the middle canopy section *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Kydia calycina*, *Embllica officinalis*, *Buchanania lanzan*, *Semecarpus anacardium*, *Holorrhena antidysenterica* are recurrent species. In the bottom section *Murraya koenigii*, *Glycosmis pentaphylla*, *Helicteres isora* and weeds like *Eupatorium* are more prevalent. Dominant shrub species include *Leea indica*, *Glycosmis pentaphylla*, and *Phychotria* sp.

### **Herpetofaunal wealth**

Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot is known for its diverse assemblage of reptiles and amphibians (Bhupathy & Babu, 2013; Vasudevan, 2015; Krishna et al., 2019). There are 252 species of amphibians with 90% endemics and 108 species of reptiles with 56% endemics (Dahanukar & Molur, 2020; Srinivasulu et al., 2015; amphibianweb.in). Faunal inventory took a pace since the last decade, whereby



more than 100 species of amphibians and around 50 species of reptiles have been discovered from the Western Ghats (Aengles et al., 2018; Dahanukar & Molur, 2020; reptiledatabase.org). Northern Western Ghats in Uttara Kannada region is known to harbor approximately 50 species of amphibians and approximately 40 species of reptiles, that constitute almost one-fourth of the total Western Ghats amphibian and reptilian diversity (Ramachandra et al., 2012, Pande et al., 2019). Castlerock was one of the key settlements during colonial period from where several herpetofaunal species were collected. These served as materials for taxonomic description of several herpetofaunal species making Castlerock as a type locality (Table 1 and Figure 3).

**Table 1:** Type locality of herpetofauna species reported earlier in Tinaighat-Castlerock area

| Class    | Species                                     | IUCN status     | Reference                 |
|----------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Amphibia | <i>Nyctibatrachus petraeus</i> <sup>1</sup> | Least Concern   | Das & Kunte, 2005         |
|          | <i>Raorchestes bombayensis</i> <sup>2</sup> | Vulnerable      | Annandale, 1919           |
| Reptilia | <i>Hypnale hypnale</i> <sup>3</sup>         | Not Evaluated   | Merrem, 1820              |
|          | <i>Dendrelaphis giri</i> <sup>4</sup>       | Least Concerned | Vogel & Van Rooijen, 2011 |
|          | <i>Ahaetulla borealis</i> <sup>5</sup>      | Not Evaluated   | Mallik et al., 2020       |

<sup>1</sup> A stream frog, that grows up to 44mm in length. Lays eggs in rock crevices, on hanging leaves above stream during July-August. A new mode of amplexus has been discovered in this species, termed as dorsal straddle. the male does not embrace the female but straddles over her back with his hand holding or resting on substrates such as a leaf, branch, or tree trunk.

<sup>2</sup> One of the smallest bush frog species grows up to 23mm. Their breeding season ranges from June-August and they are known for their direct development. We have also encountered metamorphs during survey. One of the threatened species recorded during study.

<sup>3</sup> It is unique in having an upturned snout among other Indian pit vipers. It has 20-30 oval or triangular marks on the flanks. It is ovoviviparous in nature.

<sup>4</sup> Diurnal, arboreal snake grows up to 653 mm. Described from Castlerock but known only from Karnataka, Tamilnadu & Maharashtra state. Described from just single male specimen, its taxonomic position is still questionable.

<sup>5</sup> Diurnal, arboreal snake grows up to 592 mm in length. Earlier *Ahaetulla nasuta* population of the study area has been assigned to this new species based on molecular evidence.



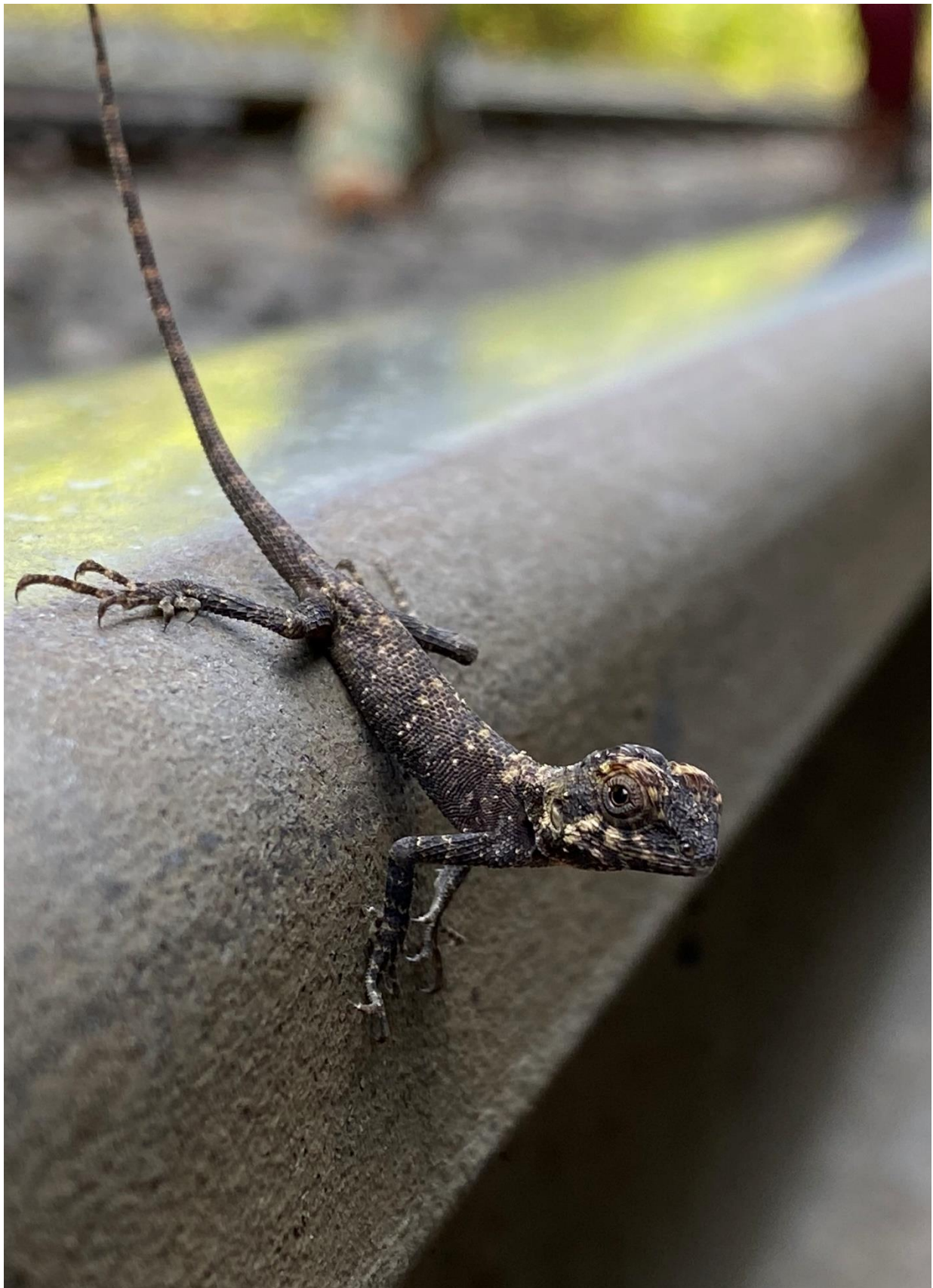
**Figure 3:** Herpetofaunal species of Castlerock as a type locality (A. *Nyctibatrachus Petraeus* B. *Hypnale hypnale* C. *Raorchestes bombayensis* D. *Dendrelapsis girii* [photo copyright: S.R. Ganesh & S.R. Chandramouli] E. *Ahaetulla borealis*)

### **Ecological Importance of Castlerock in relation to herpetofauna habitat**

Microhabitats such as leaf litters, fallen logs, rock crevices, streams (riffle, run, cascade, stream boulders & bedrocks), shrubs, bushes, tree holes, tree branches etc. are important niches for herpetofaunal species. Some of them show ecological specificity towards certain microhabitats depending on their unique biological needs. Species such as *Nyctibatrachus petraeus* are dependent on stream pools and riffles for their breeding purpose. *Micrixalus* sp. are specific to stream boulders. It has been documented that each individual of this species occupies single boulder as their territory during breeding season (Biju et. al. 2014). Moist leaf litters around riparian areas serve as good niche for amphibian species like *Clinotarsus curtipes*, *Minervarya* sp., and reptiles like *Hypnale hypnale* etc. Fallen logs are good hideouts for lizards like *Cnemaspis* sp., several *Hemidactylus* sp. (*H. triedrus*, *H. prashadi* etc.), snakes (*Lycodon* sp., *Uropeltis* sp.). Arboreal habitats as in tree branches, liana strangles are niche to unique species of herpetofauna such as amphibians like *Rhacophorus malabaricus*, *Polypedates* sp. etc. and among snakes *Ahaetulla borealis* (endemic to northern Western Ghats, Mallick et al., 2020), *Boiga* sp.,



*Trimeresurus malabaricus* (Western Ghats endemic). Endemic bush frog members such as *Raorchestes bombayensis*, *Pseudophilautus amboli* are intricately dependent on shrubs and bushes for their life cycle. Streams and associated pools are home to tadpoles of species such as *Clinotarsus curtipes*, *Indosylvirana* sp., *Rhacophorus malabaricus* etc. Aquatic snakes such as *Rhabdops*, *Fowlea* sp. are also largely dependent on streams and other waterbodies. All these representative habitats and microhabitats are present along the 'Ghat' section of Castlerock range and most of the northern Western Ghats herpetofaunal species are present along these areas (see Appendix-I for an overview).



## CHAPTER 2: Environment Assessment by IISc Bangalore

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### ***Summary of Environmental Assessment undertaken by Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore during 2017 and 2020***

An environmental assessment of the railway track was undertaken by Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (IISc), and subsequently they submitted two reports to RVNL (Sukumar & Sitharam, 2017 and Suresh et al., 2020). These reports detailed the floral and faunal studies of the project area in two stretches of the proposed railway track (Kulem to Castlerock, and Castlerock to Tinaighat). The authors carried out detailed assessments on the vegetation of the area during both study periods, and the structural and functional aspects of vegetation, and forecasts of loss of vegetation in alternative rail alignment scenarios were reported. For mammals, sign surveys, camera trapping and opportunistic sightings were recorded to assess the presence of mammals near the railway track and to identify areas of high animal activity and movement. As a result, stretches of railway tracks specified by chainages and animal crossing zones were identified. For the herpetofaunal component, the studies documented the diversity and rail kills of amphibians and reptiles in and around the study area. However no specific mitigation measures were aimed at reducing the impacts on amphibians and reptiles. The study provided general broad measures such as culvert construction and drainage structures to facilitate movement of smaller animals including anurans, reptiles, and small mammals.

This chapter is divided in to three parts. In the first part, general findings (mammals, herpetofauna and vegetation) have been summarised based on the previous IISc reports. In the second part, railway stretches that require mitigation have been identified based on these reports. In the last part, a summary of the suggested mitigation measures given in the reports have been provided.

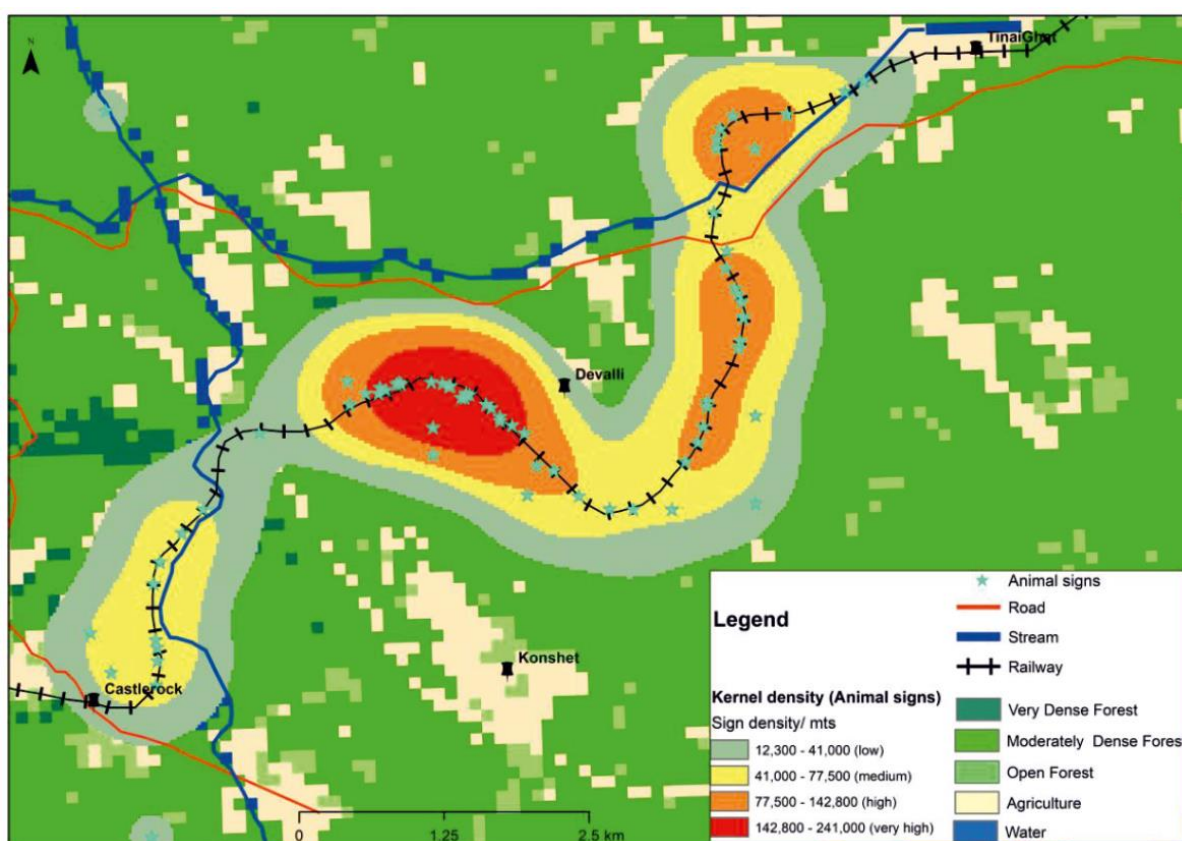
### **General findings**

#### ***Mammals***

##### ***Tinaighat to Castlerock:***

To identify areas of high use by mammals, IISc conducted camera trap, sign surveys and collected opportunistic mammal presence data along the existing railway track from the Tinaighat to Castlerock section (Suresh et al., 2020). The camera trap study carried out over 72 trap nights in this section captured 23 images belonging to 5 mammal species including gaur, porcupine, sambar, small Indian civet, and chital. Indirect signs (n = 406) including pug/hoof marks, pellets/scats/droppings and feeding signs for mammals such as gaur, langur, sambar, and leopard were recorded during the study on transects laid parallel to the railway track up to 10 m. Direct sightings (n = 10) of mammals such as gaur, langur, barking deer, porcupine and bonnet macaque were also recorded during the study. On the basis of animal evidence collected, Suresh et al. (2020) identified 3 main clusters of animal activity/movement along the study section (Figure 4), details of which are given in the Table 2.





**Figure 4:** Kernel density of signs collected by IISc during their survey in 2019 between Tinaighat-Castlerock. The clusters were classified as low (light green), medium (yellow), high (orange), and very high (red) based on density of signs found (Source: Suresh et al., 2020)

**Table 2:** Details of animal clusters identified by IISc (Suresh et al., 2020) along the railway track in the Tinaighat to Castlerock segment

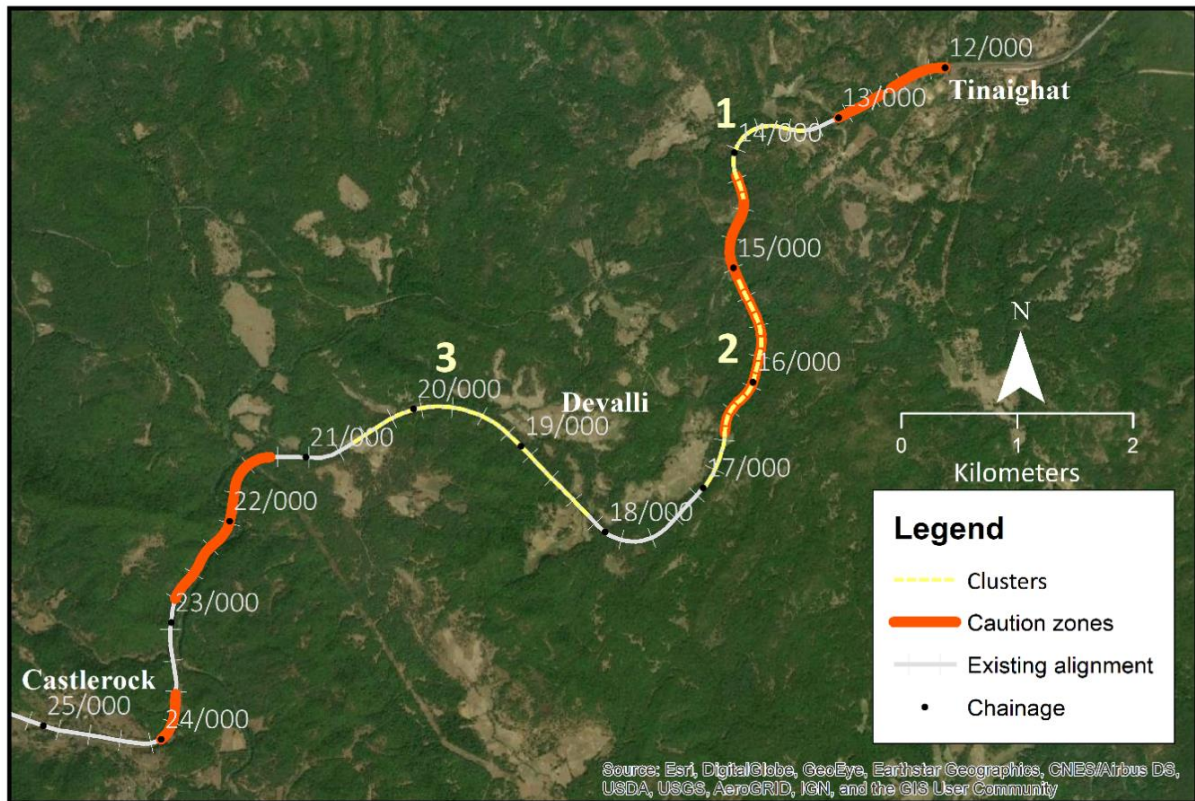
| Cluster Number | Chainage    | Length of cluster (km) | Category  |
|----------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------|
| 1              | 13/3 – 14/4 | 1.024                  | High      |
| 2              | 15/1 – 17/0 | 2.91                   | High      |
| 3              | 18/2 – 20/6 | 1.47                   | Very high |

The report has also listed out locations of ‘caution zones’ originally issued by the railways of probable animal presence to be followed by their loco pilots (Table 3). According to the report, these locations also overlap with sensitive locations identified through their kernel density analysis of animal signs.

**Table 3:** Location of ‘caution zones’ on the Tinaighat – Castlerock railway section  
(Source: Suresh et al., 2020)

| S. No. | Caution Zone |        |            |
|--------|--------------|--------|------------|
|        | From         | To     | Length (m) |
| 1      | 23/600       | 24/000 | 400        |
| 2      | 21/300       | 22/800 | 1500       |
| 3      | 21/300       | 22/300 | 1000       |
| 4      | 14/200       | 16/500 | 2300       |
| 5      | 15/900       | 16/300 | 400        |
| 6      | 14/800       | 15/600 | 800        |
| 7      | 14/200       | 14/600 | 400        |
| 8      | 12/600       | 13/000 | 400        |
| 9      | 12/000       | 12/500 | 500        |
|        | Total        |        | <b>770</b> |

Based on the animal hotspots and caution zones identified through field survey and consultation with railway officials, 5 main zones (formed by overlapping 3 animal clusters and 4 caution zones) can be delineated (Figure 5).



**Figure 5:** Consolidated map of the animal hotspots and caution zones identified (Suresh et al., 2020) on the Tinaighat – Castlerock section.



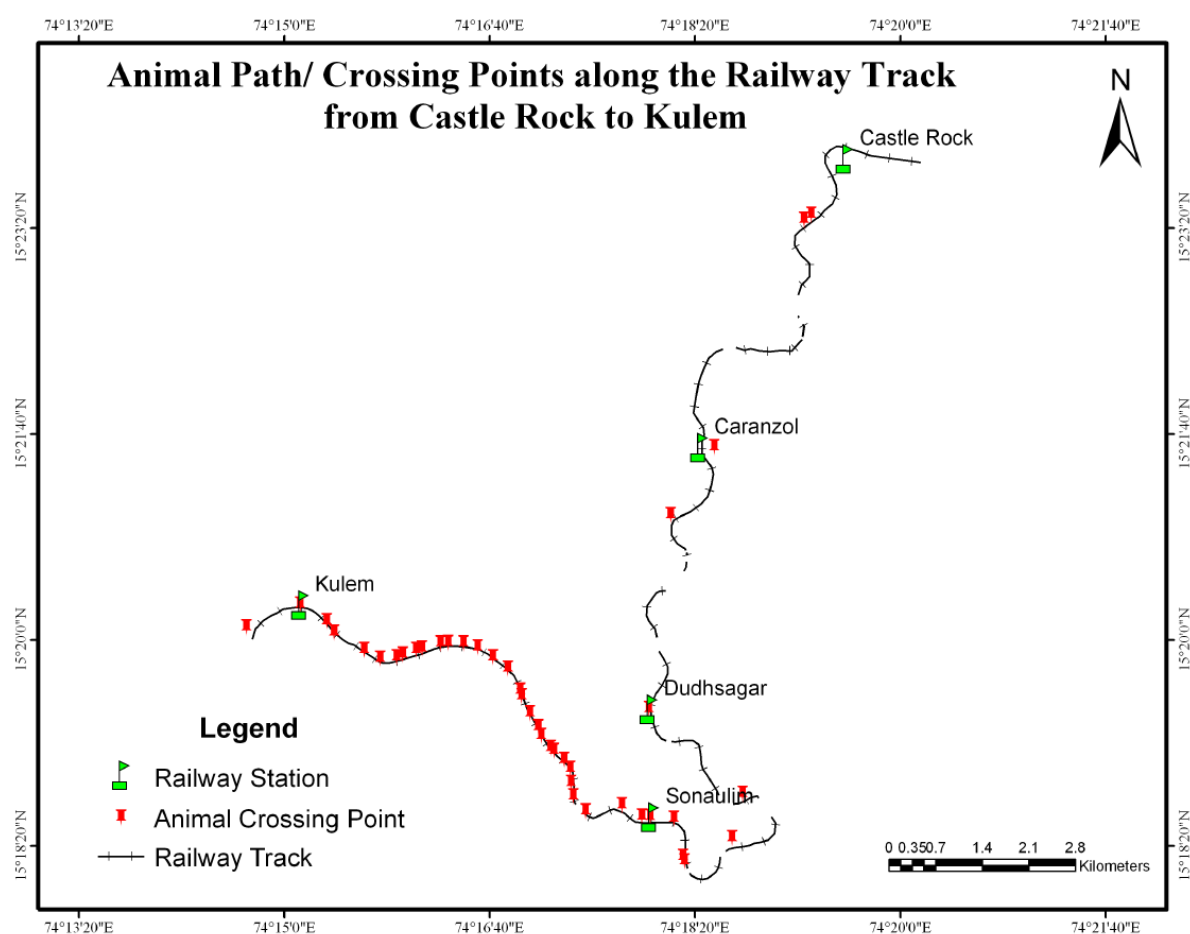
### **Castlerock to Caranzol (\*includes results for Caranzol to Kulem section)**

Indirect animal signs (n = 49) including dung/pellet, scat, den, digging, scratch marks for sambar deer, langur, porcupine and civets were recorded on the study section using belt transects (100 m \* 10m). **[NOTE: the maps in the report (Sukumar & Sitharam, 2017) on which animal signs were plotted did not show any signs on the section between Castlerock and Caranzol (Karnataka-Goa border)]**

Direct sightings (n = 37) of mammals such as bonnet macaque, Malabar giant squirrel and Hanuman langur were also recorded during the study. **[NOTE: the maps in the report (Sukumar and Sitharam, 2017) on which animal sightings were plotted did not show any sightings on the section between Castlerock and Caranzol (Karnataka-Goa border)].**

Five mammal species viz., wild boar, small Indian civet, mouse deer, brown palm civet and Indian porcupine were recorded via camera trapping (n = 5). **[NOTE: the maps in the report (Sukumar and Sitharam, 2017) on which camera trap locations were plotted did not show any camera traps deployed on the section between Castlerock and Caranzol (Karnataka-Goa border)]**

Animal movement paths or crossing points were recorded based on animal signs and paths. Two (2) animal crossing points were identified on the Castlerock-Karnataka-Goa border (near Caranzol) section (Figure 6). Area outlined in red is the railway section relevant to the study area for the present assessment during November-December 2020 (Castlerock - Caranzol).



**Figure 6:** Locations of animal crossing points on the Castlerock – Kulem railway track identified in Sukumar and Sitharam (2017).

## **Herpetofauna**

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore had conducted herpetofaunal surveys from Castlerock to Kulem during 2013 and 2014 as a part of their proposed study (Sukumar & Sitharam, 2017). The study documented 24 species (total 137 individuals) of Amphibians (14 endemics to Western Ghats) and 27 species (total 81 individuals) of reptiles (Annexure I). Visual Encounter Survey (VES) technique and opportunistic encounters were carried out to document herpetofaunal species richness, relative abundance, habitat dependency and diversity indices (for amphibians only) along the existing Castlerock-Kulem railway line (Sukumar & Sitharam, 2017). The study documented three dead snakes along the railway track, including Checkered keelback and Bronzeback Tree snake (*sic* Sukumar & Sitharam, 2017). There were no specific recommendation on mitigation on herpetofauna specifically in the regions of Caranzole & Tinaghat section.

## **Vegetation characteristics between Kulem-Castlerock section in Goa-Karnataka (Sukumar and Sitharam, 2017)**

For vegetation evaluation and classification standard, belt transect was followed by the IISc research team. They used sample plots of 0.1 ha (250 x 4m), to the proposed alignment in strips of 50 m. Geo-coordinates were obtained for each transect by the research team and all woody individuals >1.0 cm dbh (diameter at breast height) including woody climbers were identified and measured for size. Canopy was estimated along the transect line at every 10 m interval. A total of 8593 individuals belonging to 255 different species were identified. Among the canopy trees, *Hopea wightiana*, *Diospyros candolleana*, *Xylia xylocarpa* and *Terminalia paniculata* were dominant.

In the moist deciduous forest type, a total of 14 sample plots were laid and 2284 individuals >1cm dbh belonging to 119 species and 42 families of flowering plants were identified. Dominant trees include *Xylia xylocarpa* and *Terminalia paniculata*. Mean species richness of this forest type was  $28 \pm 11.4$  species/plot and Shannon-Weiner's heterogeneity index was  $2.50 \pm 0.62$ . Mean density per plot was  $163.07 \pm 65.94$  individuals >1 cm dbh with a mean height of the canopy of 25 m.

Seven 0.1 ha sample plots were laid in semi-evergreen forests, resulting in 1508 individuals >1 cm dbh belonging to 111 species and 42 families of flowering plants. Abundant species include *Memecylon umbellatum* and *Psychotria dalzellii*, among the canopy trees *Hopea wightiana*, *Aporosa lindleyana* and *Diospyros candolleana* are dominant. Mean number of species in the semi-evergreen forest type was  $37.4 \pm 5.09$  was and Shannon-Weiner's diversity index was  $2.85 \pm 0.23$ . Mean density of stems >1 cm dbh was  $215 \pm 42$  with a mean height of the canopy was 27 m.

In the evergreen forest type 17 sample plots of 0.1 ha were laid, a total of 4801 individuals >1 cm dbh belonging to 207 species spread across 61 families of the flowering plant. Family Lauraceae and Myrtaceae are the most frequent species in this forest type. Mean species richness of evergreen forest was  $42.8 \pm 10.2$  and Shannon-Weiner's index was  $2.92 \pm 0.48$ . Mean density of stems >1 cm dbh was  $282.4 \pm 94.1$  with a mean height of the canopy 30.5 m.

The analysis and findings of the IISc report showed an inverted J shape graph where the basal area was concentrated in the higher size classes. Most richness of biomass was observed in evergreen plots ( $364.4 \pm 97.53$  tons/ha) followed by semi-evergreen forests ( $290.7 \pm 86.62$  tons/ha) and moist deciduous forests ( $272.1 \pm 54.77$  tons/ha) respectively. According to the project proposal of RNVL and the predictions of IISc, 53,255 woody stems >1 cm dbh under Scenario 1 (parallel track) and 175896 stems >1 cm dbh under Scenario 2 (non-parallel track) are to be cut for doubling of the railway line parallel to the existing track.



### ***Vegetation Survey between the Tinaighat and Castlerock of Karanataka (Suresh et al., 2020)***

Similar methods were used to understand the characteristics of vegetation along the proposed railway track between Tinaighat and Castlerock section. In this report, the random forest transect was analyzed for species composition, diversity parameter, structural parameter, C stock and biomass.

A total of 13 transects of 0.1 ha (250 x 4 m) dimension were laid along the railway track between Castlerock and Tinaighat section. A total of 3480 individuals >1cm dbh belonging to 137 species of different flowering plants were identified. Most abundant species were *Terminalia bellirica* (Combretaceae) with nearly 240 individuals followed by *Leea indica* (Leeaceae) with 234 individuals and *Aporosa lindleyana* with 233 individuals. Of the total studied species, 43.07% were canopy species, followed by 41.6% of understory and 15.3% of species were both shrub and climbers together. Summary statistics of diversity parameters and the different life forms of the vegetation along the Tinaighat and Castlerock railway stations were also calculated (Table 4) in the IISC report, submitted in March 2020.

**Table 4:** Characteristics of different life-forms along the Tinaighat and Castlerock railway stations (Suresh et al., 2020)

| Life-Form  | Number of Species (%) | Number of Individuals (%) | Total Basal Area (%) |
|------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Canopy     | 43.07                 | 46.38                     | 82.06                |
| Climber    | 5.11                  | 3.28                      | 0.61                 |
| Shrub      | 10.22                 | 18.91                     | 2.00                 |
| Understory | 41.61                 | 31.44                     | 15.33                |
| Total      | 100                   | 100                       | 100                  |

**Table 5:** Summary statistics of diversity parameters of the vegetation between Tinaighat and Castlerock railway stations (Suresh et al., 2020)

| Parameter         | Mean $\pm$ SD    | Range (N = 13) | Coefficient of variation (CV) |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Number of species | 40.4 $\pm$ 7.33  | 31 – 56        | 18.12                         |
| Dominance         | 0.07 $\pm$ 0.03  | 0.05 – 0.19    | 48.5                          |
| Simpson's Index   | 0.92 $\pm$ 0.03  | 0.80 – 0.94    | 3.98                          |
| Shannon's Index   | 3.07 $\pm$ 0.19  | 2.57 – 3.33    | 6.29                          |
| Fisher's Alpha    | 13.65 $\pm$ 1.84 | 11.06 – 18.48  | 13.48                         |
| Chao 1            | 51.5 $\pm$ 15.9  | 34.2 – 95.4    | 30.9                          |

Mean number of individuals >1 cm dbh among the transects was 267.6 $\pm$ 97.5, with a mean basal area was 5.49 $\pm$ 3.81 m<sup>2</sup>/0.1 ha, mean canopy cover ranges between 7.8% to 74.3% along different paths. In the study, the mean number of species ranges from 40.4 $\pm$ 7.33 (range = 31 – 56 species, N = 13), Simpson's index was 0.92 $\pm$ 0.03 (range = 0.80- 0.94, N = 13), Shannon's Index of heterogeneity 3.07 $\pm$ 0.19 (range = 2.57- 3.32, N = 13) and Fisher's alpha 13.65 $\pm$ 1.84 (range = 11.06 – 18.48, N = 13). During the time of IISC survey period they recorded 139 species, out of the 139 species, 77 species (55.4%) showed significant dispersion and 62 species (46.4%) showed random dispersion. Dominant species include *Lagerstroemia microcarpa*, *Leea indica*, *Macaranga peltata*, *Aporosa lindleyana*,

*Syzygium cumini* and *Terminalia bellirica*.. Species such as *Holigarna arnottiana*, *Chukrasia tabularis*, *Calophyllum* spp. *Aglaia roxburghii* and *Nothopegia beddomei* were among the 19 species that showed significant clumped and very low frequency of occurrence. Size class cluster analysis showed 57.3% of the stems were below 5 cm dbh and 79.4% of the stems were less than 10 cm dbh and 4.1% stems were above 30 cm dbh. Individuals below 10 cm dbh in shrubs contribute to 64.4% of the total basal area.

***Mitigation measures suggested for proposed doubling of existing railway track between Tinaighat – Castlerock – Caranzol section by IISc***

***A. Mitigation measures suggested for Tinaighat to Castlerock section:***

1. Low fencing on both sides of railway track at certain places to funnel smaller mammals towards an underpass. Remaining areas, except for high terrain, may be fenced where needed to guide larger animals towards a bigger underpass.
2. Construction of low-cost canopy bridges for arboreal mammals (viz., Malabar giant squirrel and bonnet macaque and South Indian grey plains langur).
3. For designing appropriate type of structures for allowing animals of different body sizes to cross, “Eco-friendly measures to mitigate the impacts of linear infrastructure on wildlife” (WII, 2016) may be taken as standard reference.
4. Kernel density zones (Figure 3) and caution zones (Table 3) need to be given emphasis for animal crossings. Extra 2-3 box culverts may be made beside three kernel high density zones as there is no culvert for these sectors.

***B. Mitigation measures suggested for Castlerock to Caranzol section:***

1. Railways should provide whistle boards in forested areas where animals cross the railway track. Crossing points provided in report.
2. Railways should construct underpasses for movement of animals upon the advice of forest department. They should also maintain existing culverts, underpasses and other drainage structures along the railway line or improve upon the existing structures if required.
3. Upon the advice of the forest department, railways should construct barricades in designated localities to prevent animal crossing tracks at locations where such crossings are risky for the animals.
4. Construction should be undertaken in segments with gaps in between to allow animals to find alternative paths to cross the railway track. The length of each segment can be decided in consultation with the local forest officials.
5. Railways should de-weed along the tracks to improve the visibility for the loco-pilots so as to reduce the risks of accidents with wildlife.
6. Railways should carry out an awareness campaign regarding the cleanliness along the track for the passengers.



7. Water logging along the tracks should be avoided as this could attract animals which could then be at enhanced risk of being run over by trains.
8. Train speeds should be restricted by the Railways to safe limits in the flat sectors in consultation with the respective forest departments.

Given the need for definitive measures required during the construction and functioning phase of the project, several other recommendations pertaining to maintaining air quality, noise levels, soil conservation and other important precautions have been highlighted on page 203 in the report “Biodiversity and Environmental Assessment of proposed doubling of railway track between Kulem and Castlerock in Goa-Karnataka” (Sukumar & Sitharam, 2017)



## **CHAPTER 3: Mitigation Measures for the doubling of the Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol SWR Railway Track**

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### ***Rapid assessment of fauna and habitat to suggest mitigation measures for the doubling of the Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol SWR railway track***

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) was subsequently requested to undertake the task of proposing mitigation measures for the proposed Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol railway track doubling project by the DIG (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India vide Letter F. No. 6-55/2020WL(part) dated 28th August, 2020 recommending that “detailed study for prescribing mitigation measures in this difficult terrain may be conducted by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The study may cover the entire 25 km stretch of the project area from Castlerock in the Karnataka side to Kulem in Goa. The detailed study should focus on structural and non-structural mitigation measures, use of deterrents (audio-visual), an early warning system for animal detection, speed restrictions etc.” as suggested by NTCA in its O.M. No. NTCA O.M. F.No.7-12/2020-NTCA dated 22th July 2020. Subsequently, the National Board of Wildlife in its 59th meeting held on 5th October 2020 decided to defer the proposal of the Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol railway doubling of South Western Railways, and a request to WII was made to conduct a detailed study for prescribing mitigation measures in the terrain and to submit a report vide letter File No.6-55/2020WL(part) dated 20th October 2020. Thereafter, a proposal for the present study on the aforementioned stretch of was submitted by WII.

#### **Scope and aims of present study:**

With this background, the objective of the study was to assess the length of existing and proposed railway track to suggest site-specific mitigation measures that will reduce the barrier effect, allow permeability for wildlife movement across the railway, and minimise rail-induced mortality. The main aims of the exercise were:

1. To assess potential animal crossing zones along the existing and proposed railway track.
2. To inventory of herpetofauna along the railway track, identify potential microhabitats along the track.
3. To coalesce information obtained from field survey with baseline data in IISc assessment reports (2017, 2020), and
4. To suggest site-specific mitigation measures based on intensive track survey, information obtained from field study and IISc reports.

We carried out a rapid survey from 19<sup>th</sup> November to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020. In order to identify potential animal crossing zones, we carried out camera trapping exercise and conducted sign surveys along the railway tracks. We also used rail mortality data procured from the Karnataka Forest Department and any opportunistic sighting or sign encountered during the survey to identify such areas. Visual encounter surveys, opportunistic surveys, stratified plot sampling and collection of opportunistic rail kill data were conducted to assess the herpetofaunal diversity and based on this we identified critical crossing over zones. We surveyed the entire length of existing railway alignment accompanied by railway engineers to evaluate the suitability of areas for crossing zones. We also evaluated the suitability of existing structures on the railway track as possible mitigation measures and to suggest any change if required to make them more suitable for animal use. The scope of constructing additional mitigation structures based on topography, probability of animal movement and engineering constraints was discussed in field.



## Identification of potential animal crossing zones

### A. Use of camera traps

#### Introduction:

To identify animal (mammal) crossing zones along the railway, we carried out camera trapping along the study section of the railway track i.e., from Tinaighat to Caranzol railway station between Goa-Karnataka border (chainage 12/000 to 29/900).

We deployed 44 camera traps all along the study section for a period of 15 days (20.11.2020 to 4.12.2020; Figure 7). Camera traps were deployed on animal trails, or trails intersecting water channels, drainage structures, and on tunnels, where possibility of animal movement was possibly high. Cuddeback C1 (white flash) cameras were used for the exercise that were set to capture interval of 3s (minimum interval) to maximise animal captures. We attempted to deploy one camera trap every 250 m of the track length, however additional camera traps were also deployed if more than one potential site was observed within 250 m. Camera traps were not deployed along railway track sections with retaining walls, steep slopes and human habitation on either side.



**Figure 7:** Locations of camera traps deployed during the present study along the existing railway track on the Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol section (Chainage 12/000 – 29/900) from 20.11.2020 - 04.12.2020

### **Analytical methods:**

The images retrieved from the camera traps were arranged into folders identified by the corresponding camera IDs. The images were then sorted into folders identified by the name of the species. We also classified images of human and related activities viz. humans, dogs, cattle, railway personnel separately. A record table of the data was then generated using package CamtrapR (Niedballa et al, 2016) on statistical software RStudio (Version 4.0) using function 'recordTable'. The function uses the EXIF information of an image to generate a table containing information about the camera ID, species captured, date and time of capture, and other ancillary information. The table was then used to summarise the results of the exercise.

We further used the function 'detectionMaps' to generate a spatial view of species-specific captures at the camera trapping points, by integrating information from the record table and a camera table containing the GPS locations of the camera traps. A species-wise and composite map of spatial capture history was thus generated.

### **Results & Discussion**

We recorded 156 photo captures of 17 mammal species over a period of 660 trap nights (15 days x 44 cameras). The species captured include the endemic brown palm civet or Jerdon's palm civet (*Paradoxurus jerdoni*), ungulates such as gaur (*Bos gaurus*), chital (*Axis axis*), sambar (*Rusa unicolor*), mouse deer (*Moschiola indica*) and wild pig (*Sus scrofa*), carnivores such as leopard (*Panthera pardus*), jackal (*Canis aureus*), wild dog (*Cuon alpinus*), Small Indian civet (*Viverricula indica*), side-striped mongoose (*Herpestes vitticollis*) and black-naped hare (*Lepus nigricollis*) (Table 6; Figure 8 a-l). Humans and associated species such as livestock and dogs were also captured in certain areas.

**Table 6:** Summary of wild animal species captured during the camera trapping exercise conducted during the present survey from 20.11.2020 - 04.12.2020.

| S. No. | Species               | Captures |
|--------|-----------------------|----------|
| 1.     | Barking deer          | 6        |
| 2.     | Bonnet macaque        | 8        |
| 3.     | Brown palm civet      | 2        |
| 4.     | Chital                | 7        |
| 5.     | Gaur                  | 8        |
| 6.     | Black-naped Hare      | 15       |
| 7.     | Jackal                | 2        |
| 8.     | Langur                | 7        |
| 9.     | Leopard               | 9        |
| 10.    | Leopard cat           | 1        |
| 11.    | Side-striped mongoose | 3        |
| 12.    | Mouse deer            | 14       |
| 13.    | Porcupine             | 26       |
| 14.    | Sambar                | 22       |
| 15.    | Small Indian civet    | 8        |
| 16.    | Wild dog              | 2        |
| 17.    | Wild pig              | 12       |
| 18.    | Unidentified          | 4        |
| Total  |                       | 156      |

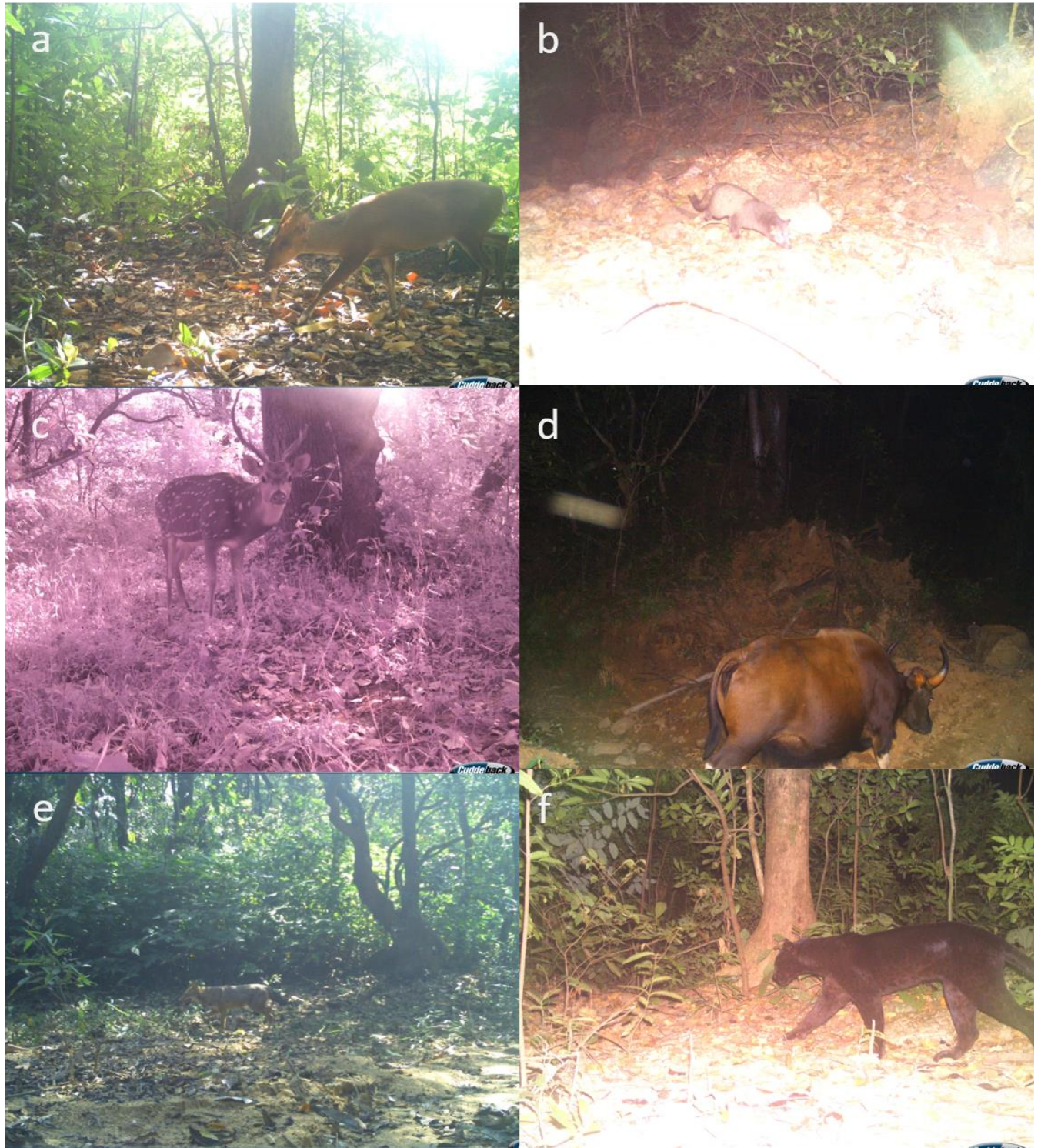


Black-naped hare and porcupine were the most frequently captured small mammal species, while sambar and mouse deer were the most frequently captured ungulate species. While chital was captured predominantly in the railway section where surrounding terrain was flat (Tinaighat area), sambar presence was widespread. Mouse deer captures were mostly obtained from in/near the Castlerock Sanctuary area. Wild pig captures were obtained from areas near agricultural fields (Figure 9 a-q).

An interesting finding was the capture of six mammals on the camera trap deployed on top of a tunnel (Tunnel 1 towards Caranzol from Castlerock station). These included large mammals such as gaur, sambar and leopard, and other species such as mouse deer, barking deer and porcupine. This indicates that tunnels and tunnel-like features (overpasses) would provide an undisturbed, unobstructed, and natural passage above a railway track.







**Figure 8 (a – f):** Camera trap images of mammals captured during the camera trapping exercise: a. Barking deer, b. Brown palm civet, c. Chital, d. Gaur, e. Jackal, f. Leopard.





**Figure 8 (g – l):** Camera trap images of mammals captured during the camera trapping exercise: g. Side-striped mongoose, h. Mouse deer, i. Sambar, j. Small Indian civet, k. Wild dog, and l. Wild pig.



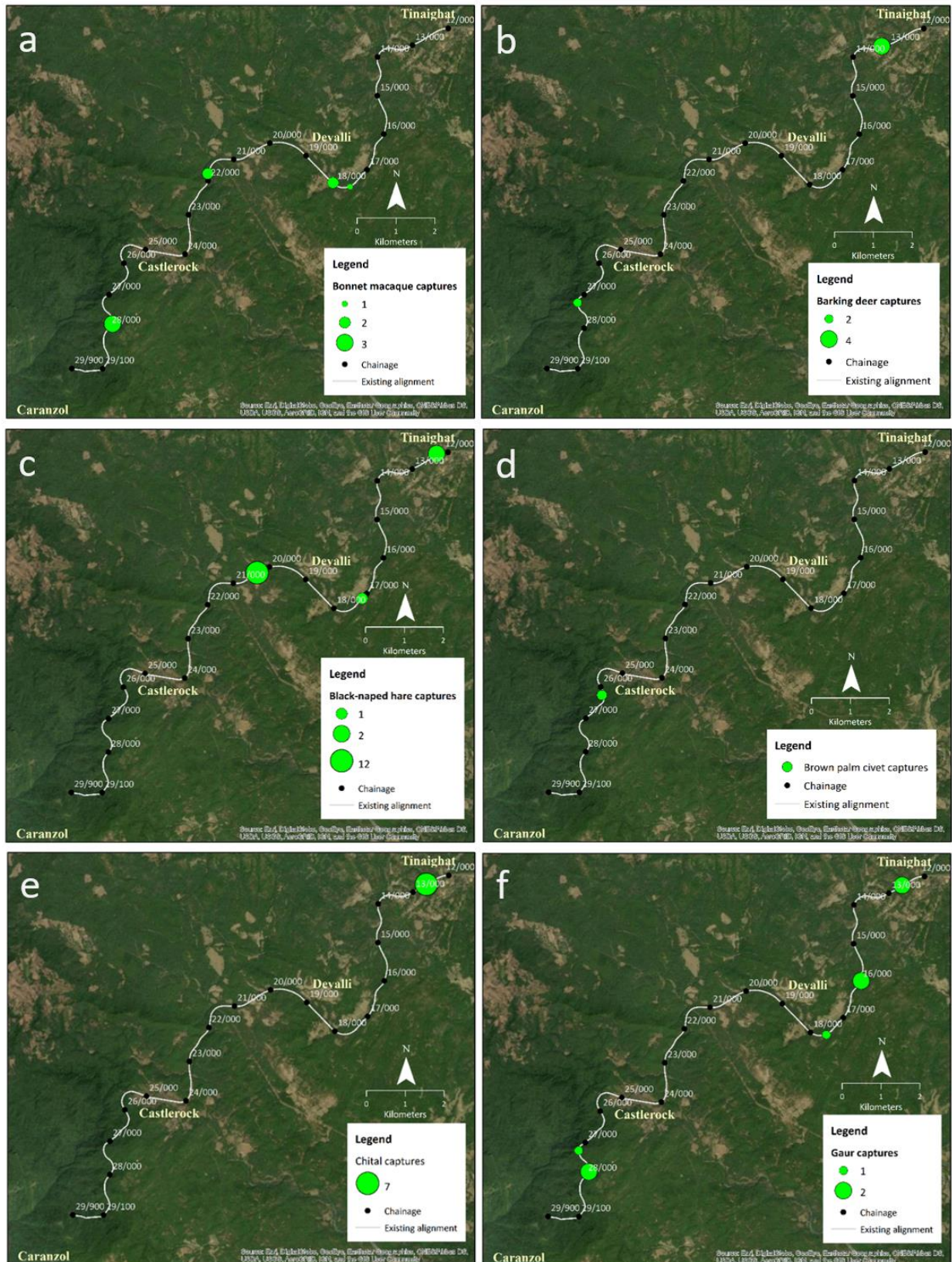
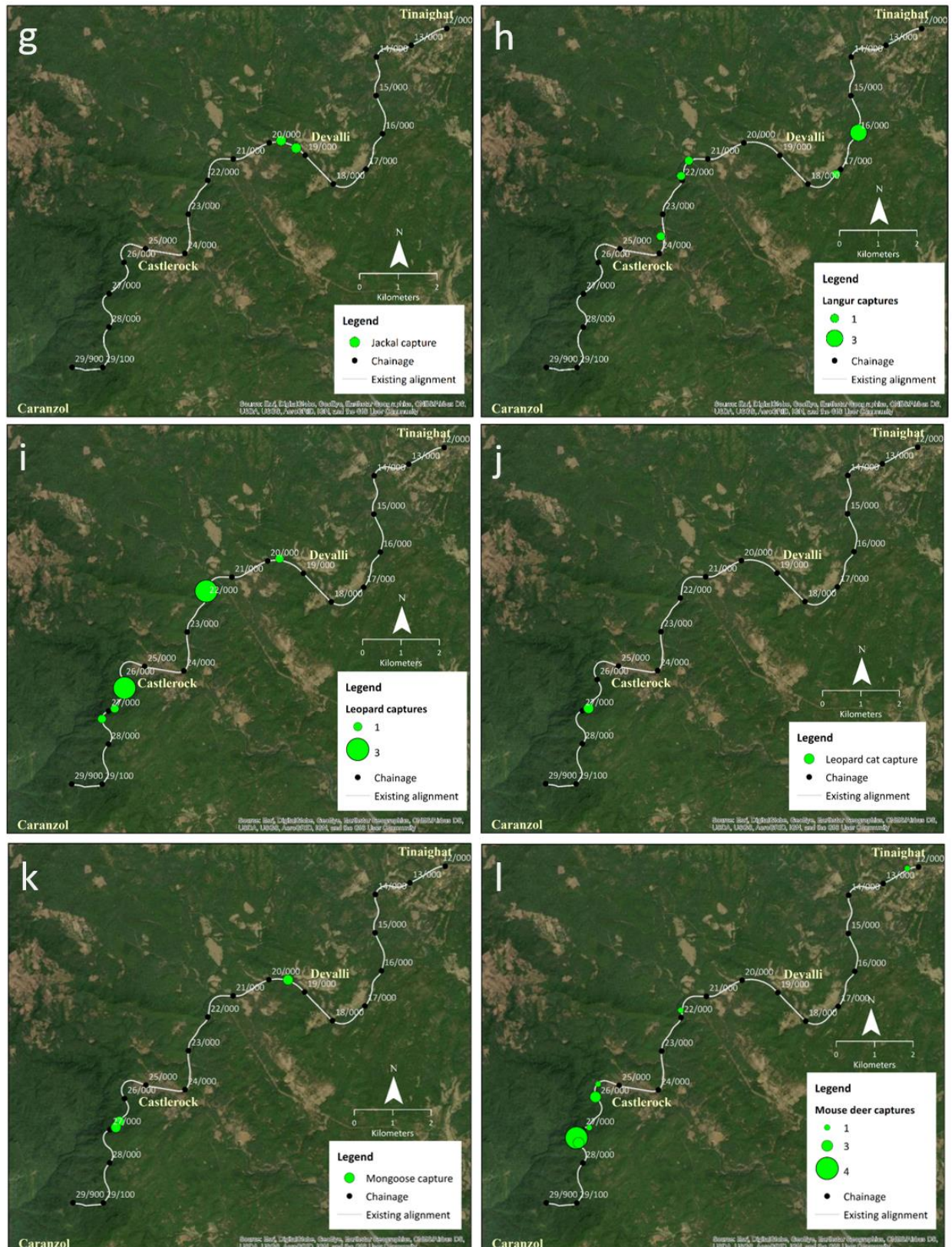


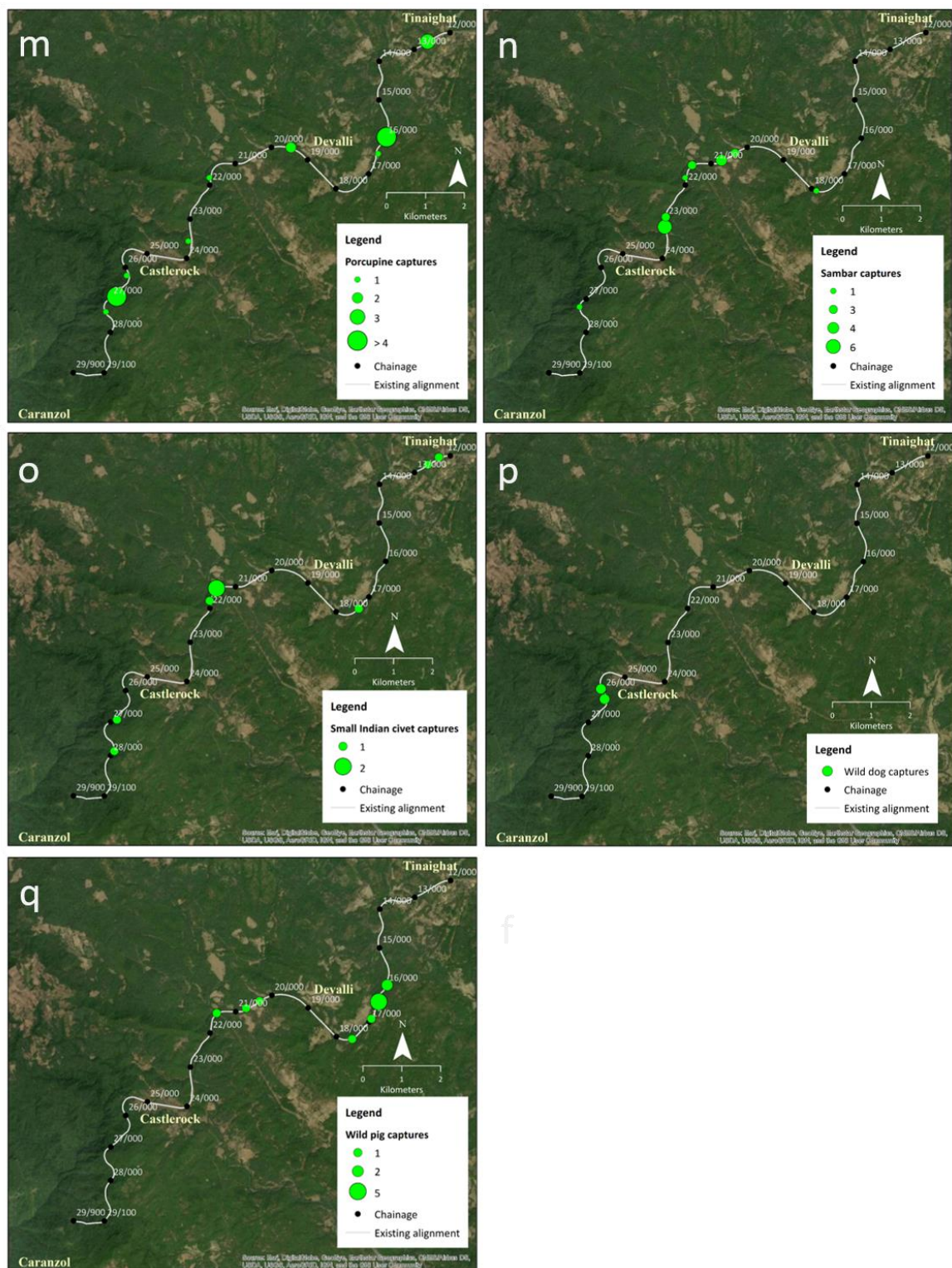
Figure 9 (a – f): Spatial detection maps of mammals captured during the camera trap survey: a. Bonnet macaque, b. Barking deer, c. Black-naped hare, d. Brown palm civet, e. Chital, f. Gaur.





**Figure 9 (g – l):** Spatial detection maps of mammals captured during the camera trap survey: g. Jackal, h. Langur, i. Leopard, j. Leopard cat, k. Side-striped mongoose, l. Mouse deer.





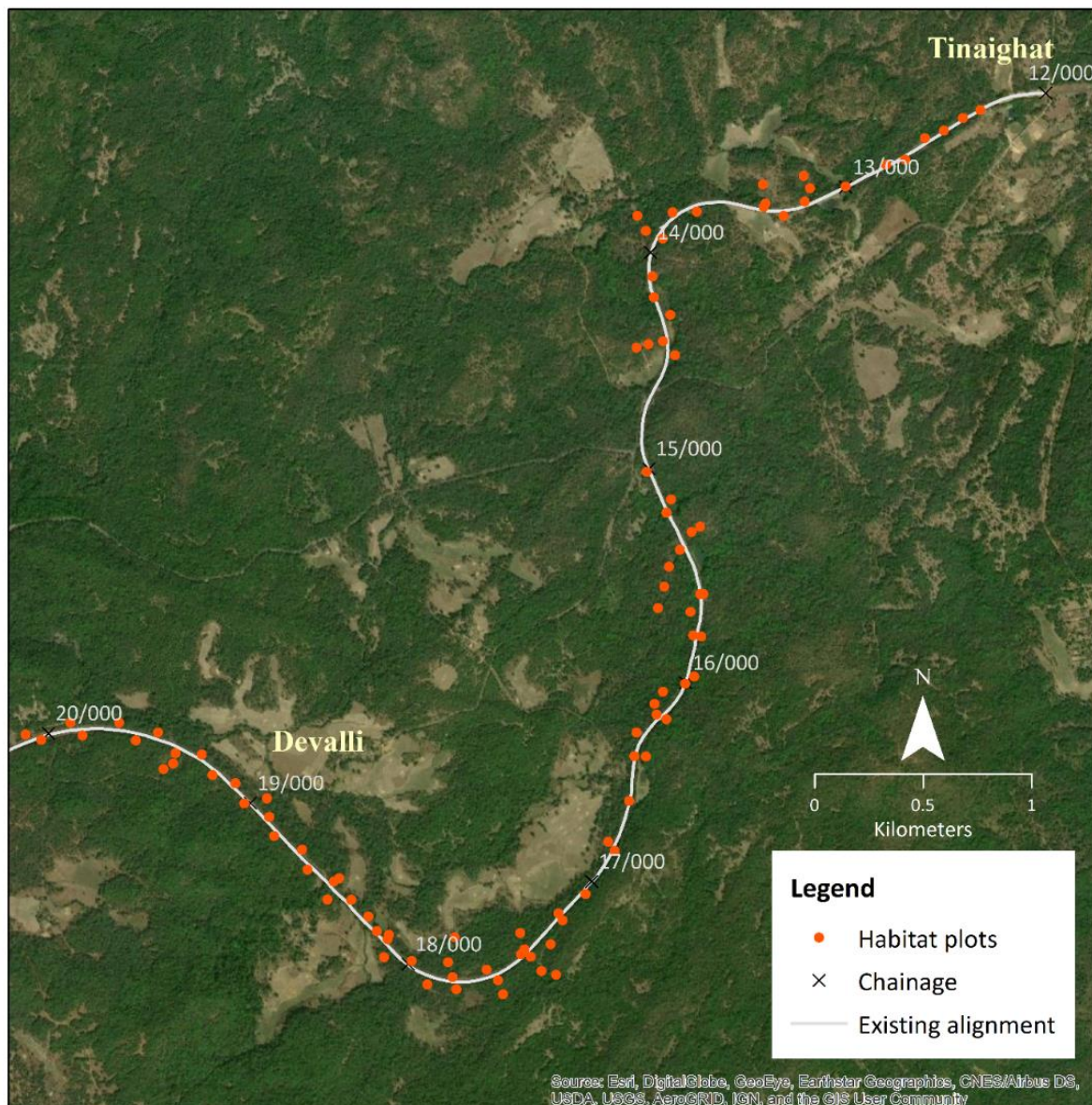
**Figure 9 (m – q):** Spatial detection maps of mammals captured during the camera trap survey: m. Porcupine, n. Sambar, o. Small Indian civet, p. Wild dog, and q. Wild pig.



## B. Plot-based sampling for indirect animal signs

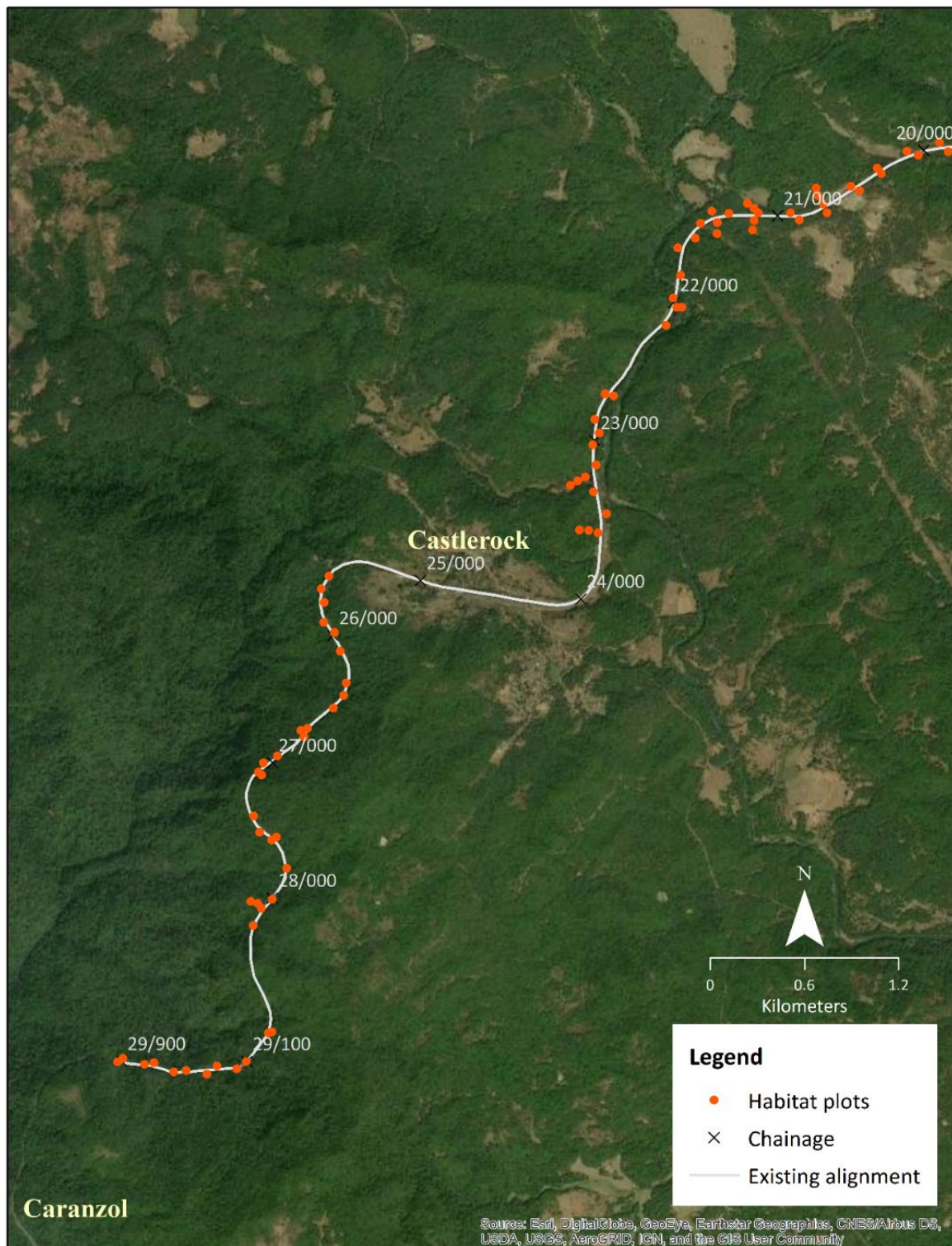
### **Field Methods:**

The rapid survey to suggest mitigation measures against the proposed doubling of railway track was carried out between Tinaighat and Caranzol stretch (25km). To understand habitat characteristics, we laid circular plots of 10 m radius along forest edge on both side of the railway track. We also laid plots along forest trails across the tracks. The circular plots were laid every 200m apart on either side of the track for the 25 km stretch (Figure 10 a-b). Along the trail a maximum of three plots were laid every 50 m apart. We looked for the presence of any mammalian signs (e.g., scats, pellets, pug mark/hoof mark/footprint, scratch mark) in each of the circular plots. We also noted the tree cover, shrub cover, ground cover estimates and other factors influencing animal presence.



**Figure 10 (a):** Locations of plots along railway track for recording habitat and vegetation characteristics, and animal signs between chainages 12/000 and 20/000 during the present survey from 19.11.2020 – 04.12.2020.





**Figure 10 (b):** Spatial location of plots along railway track for recording habitat and vegetation characteristics, and animal signs between chainages 20/000 and 29/900 during the present survey from 19.11.2020 – 04.12.2020.



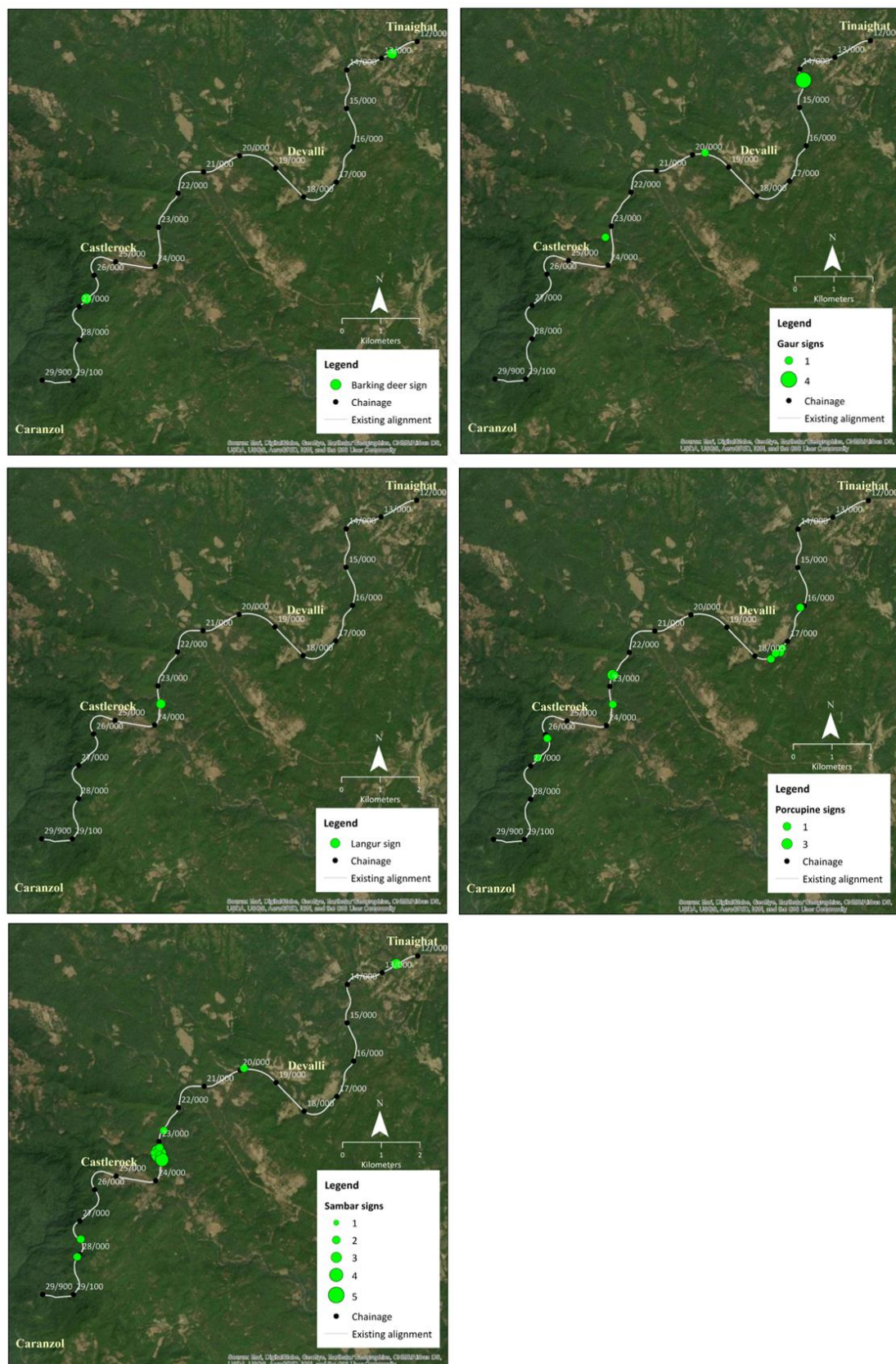
### **Analytical methods:**

To understand species-habitat relationship, we analysed species presence and pellet count data as a surrogate for abundance along the forest edge of the existing railway track. We calculated the euclidean distance from each plot to the railway track and to human settlements. We then averaged the distance of species presence for all major species found in the plots. We also analysed the species presence data with respect to slope to understand the configuration of terrain in species distribution along the track. For analysis, we used species presence, pellet count data, species distance from the railway track, human settlement, and slope to see the correlation between species-habitat relationship with respect to railway track. We did non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) analysis of ordinal data. NMDS is an indirect gradient analysis approach that produces an ordination based on a distance or dissimilarity matrix. All the data analysis was carried out in program R 3.6.3 (R Core Team, 2020).

### **Results and Discussion**

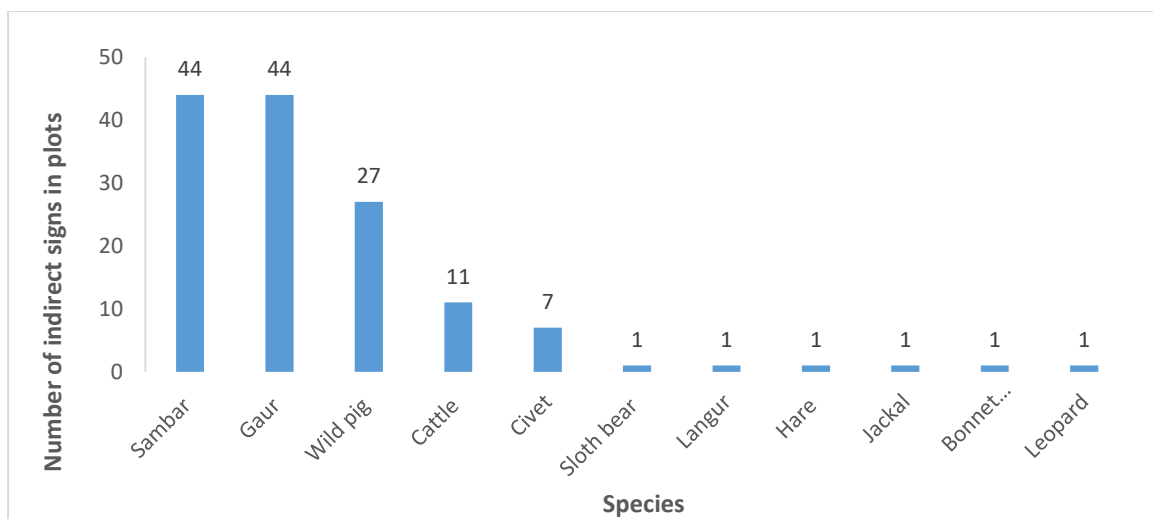
A total of 203 animal signs across 12 mammal species on 175 habitat plots were recorded. The spatial detection maps of species whose indirect signs were most recorded in habitat plots along the railway track are shown in Figure 11. Along the Tinaighat-Caranzol section, the total number of species presence and frequency of occurrence are shown in the Figure 12. The abundance of pellet count was found to be higher for sambar, followed by porcupine and was least for gaur. However, gaur was found to use areas close to the railway track followed by porcupine and sambar respectively (Figure 13). A three-dimensional graphical plot of species pellet abundance with respect to the human settlement and distance to the existing railway line is given in the Figure 14. Gaur used areas close to the railway track with average distance of 10 m followed by porcupine and sambar, respectively. The relationship between species presence with respect to distance to railway track and human settlement was found to be highly correlated (non-metric fit:  $R^2 = 0.98$ ). Similarly, when we did NMDS for species presence with respect to slope, porcupine used areas with flat terrain ( $0^\circ$ - $10^\circ$  slope). For gaur it used area with gentle slope of between ( $20^\circ$ - $40^\circ$ ) while sambar used areas with moderate slopes of between  $40^\circ$ - $60^\circ$  (Figure 15). It is evident from our results that species such as gaur, sambar, and porcupine are present in terrain with gentle to moderate slopes and uses area around railway track more frequently as compared to other species in the landscape. Gaur being the most abundant species found close to the railway track, it should be considered as priority species for mitigation along the railway track.



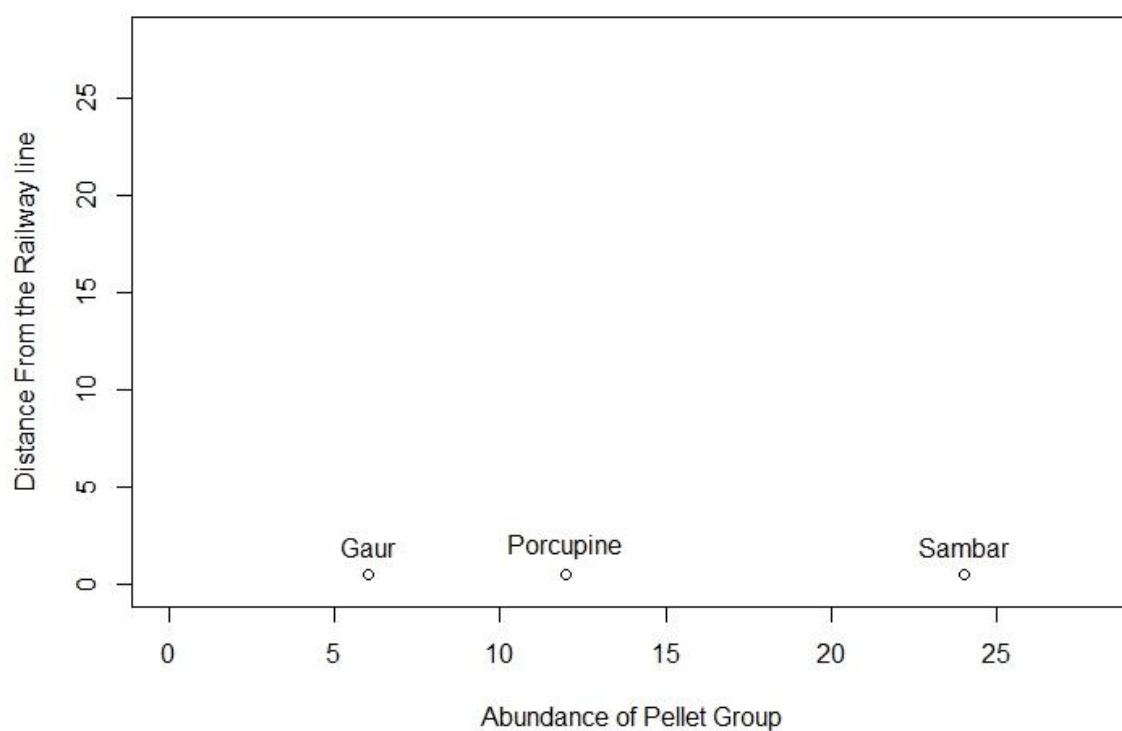


**Figure 11.** Spatial detection maps of species whose indirect signs were most recorded in habitat plots laid along the railway track between Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol section during 19.11.2020 – 04.12.2020

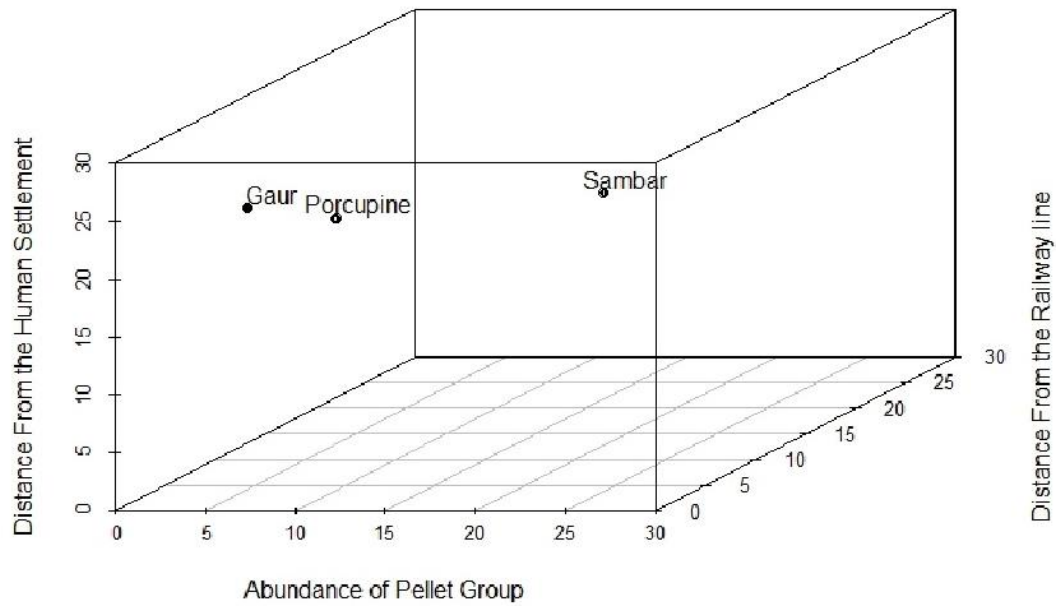




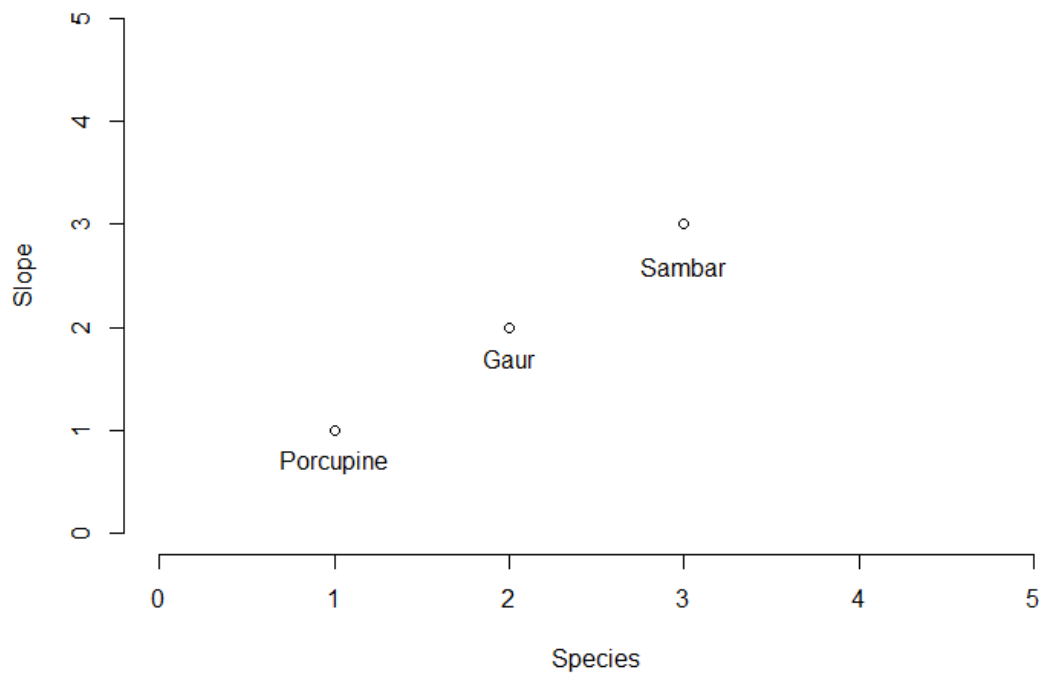
**Figure 12.** Number of indirect signs of mammalian species found along the forest edge plots between Tinaighat-Caranzol railway line stretch



**Figure 13.** Pellet abundance along the forest edge with respect to the distance to existing railway line between Tinaighat-Caranzol sections



**Figure 14.** A three-dimensional plot of species presence with respect to the human settlement and distance to the existing railway line between Tinaighat-Caranzol section



**Figure 15.** Species presence with respect to slope between Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol Section. (Slopes are in scale of 1-5 where 0-1 flat terrain, 2-gentle slope, 3-moderate slope, 4-steep slope and 5-very steep slope).



### C. Assessment of herpetofauna along railway track

We conducted a rapid herpetofaunal assessment for 15 days (19.11.2020 - 04.12.2020). The main aim of the survey was to provide effective mitigation measure for herpetofauna between Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol railway track. The objectives that were fulfilled are as follows:

- Rapid assessment of herpetofaunal diversity based on visual encounter surveys and opportunistic encounters.
- To identify potentially suitable sites for herpetofaunal species alongside existing track for proposing mitigation measure.

#### **Field Methods:**

The survey was conducted along the Tinaighat (N 15.44884, E 74.39846) to Caranzole (N 15.37305, E 74.31129) railway track and its adjacent areas in Karnataka State to record species richness, diversity, relative abundance, ecological status, railway mortality of amphibians & reptiles. The study area has a composition of unique and diverse habitats from moist deciduous to semi evergreen forest structure as one descends down from Castlerock in Karnataka to Kulem in Goa. Systematic & opportunistic samplings were carried out between 18 November 2020 till 4 December 2020 which coincides with the drier season of Western Ghats. The temperature range during the study period was 19-29° C and average humidity was 70%. The areas extensively surveyed for herpetofaunal diversity is given in the Table 7.

**Table 7:** The areas surveyed for herpetofauna diversity taking a buffer of at least 50 m on each side of the existing railway track between Tinaighat and Caranzol railway track

| Site ID | Place                                       | GPS loc.                | Habitat type                             |
|---------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| A       | Nature camp- Castlerock                     | N 15.40065, E 74.32416  | Perennial Stream                         |
| B       | Castlerock (25/5) railway track to Caranzol | N 15.39995, E 74.32324  | Railway track buffer land & forest edges |
| C       | Castlerock rail-gate                        | N 15.40503, E 74.33783  | Perennial Stream                         |
| D       | Devali Underpass (17/8)                     | N 15.41587, E 74.37054  | Perennial Stream                         |
| E       | Nature Camp IB                              | N 15.40122, E 74.320327 | Perennial stream                         |
| F       | Near Duski River (21/0 chainage)            | N 15.41947, E 74.3488   | Perennial Stream                         |
| G       | 26/5 Culvert Underpass- to Caranzol         | N 15.39265, E 74.32339  | Perennial Stream                         |
| H       | Devali Underpass (18/9)                     | N 15.4221, E 74.36343   | Perennial stream                         |
| I       | Tunnel2 (from Castlerock to Caranzol)       | N 15.37436, E 74.3197   | Perennial stream                         |
| J       | Tinaighat Section 1                         | N 15.41349, E 74.37545  | Railway track buffer land & forest edges |
| K       | Tunnel 3 (from Castlerock to Caranzol)      | N 15.37217, E 74.31396  | Seasonal stream                          |
| L       | Tinaighat section 2 (15/8 chainage)         | N 15.4240, E 74.38264   | Railway track buffer land & forest edges |

### ***Sampling methods:***

**Visual Encounter Survey:** We conducted time constrained visual encounter survey (VES) (Crump & Scott, 1994) for sampling of herpetofaunal species. The surveys were executed for one hour preferably from evening onwards, mostly between 1900 hrs. to 2200 hrs. (3 men/h). We concentrated search activities along all potential herpetofaunal habitats. Areas such as railway track, forest trails, perennial and seasonal streams, temporary water pools were extensively surveyed to record the presence of individuals. All the habitat characters were also being noted down along with species encountered. For few snake species, ventral, dorsal and head scales were counted in order to aid in species level identification.

**Opportunistic Survey:** Opportunistic herpetofaunal sightings were also been accounted in all the localities where regular surveys were conducted. We pooled opportunistic records of amphibians and reptiles with survey data to document the maximum possible species richness of the area. GPS locations and additional habitat characters have also been noted down.

**Mortality on Railway Track:** Documentation of dead herpetofauna were made during the regular track assessment surveys. Amphibians and reptiles that were found dead on and aside railway tracks with certain signs (lacerations, desiccation etc.) were considered to be killed due to railway track and associated movements. All findings of dead amphibians and reptiles were photographed and georeferenced.

**Identification of Amphibians & Reptiles:** All the documented species were identified on field or through photographs of each species and comparing it with available literature and field guides viz. Smith (1934 & 1943), Whitaker & Captain (2004, 2008), Gururaja (2012), Biju et al., (2014); Das & Kunte (2005).

### ***Analytical methods:***

Species abundance, richness, encounter rates were calculated with habitat characteristics. Diversity index such as Shannon's diversity index, Simpson's diversity index and species accumulation curve for all the species were also calculated. All data were analysed in R studio (version 3.4.1).

### ***Results***

Total 13 surveys were conducted from Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol in 12 selected sites. Altogether 39 man-hours of efforts were dedicated for visual encounter surveys (Table 8). We encountered maximum counts of 198 individuals and 13 species of herpetofauna amongst all the sites.

Diversity indices such Shannon's and Simpson's Index were also enumerated to show herpetofaunal assemblages (Table 9). Species accumulation curve (Figure 16) shows that the species richness has not reached asymptote. X- axis in the following graph denotes number of sites surveyed (i.e., Site "A" =1, Site "B" = 2, Site "C" = 3 etc.).

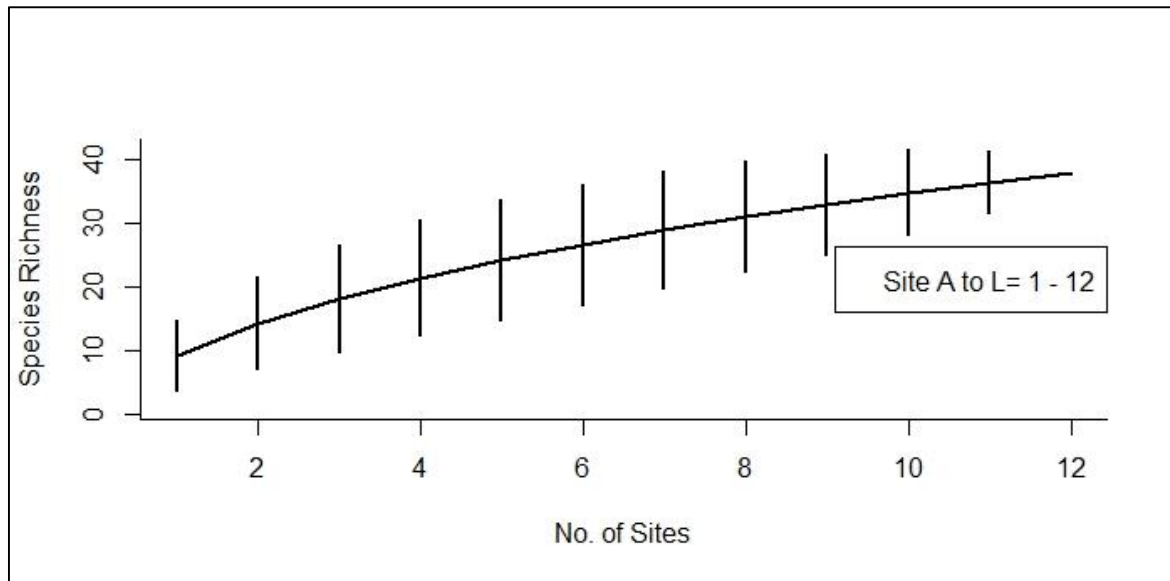


**Table 8:** Effort of Visual Encounter Survey (VES) along the Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol railway line section

| Site ID | Number of surveys | Person-hours | Number of individuals | Number of species |
|---------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| A       | 2                 | 6            | 103                   | 13                |
| B       | 1                 | 3            | 14                    | 5                 |
| C       | 1                 | 3            | 64                    | 9                 |
| D       | 1                 | 3            | 198                   | 8                 |
| E       | 1                 | 3            | 21                    | 8                 |
| F       | 1                 | 3            | 186                   | 9                 |
| G       | 1                 | 3            | 30                    | 11                |
| H       | 1                 | 3            | 78                    | 12                |
| I       | 1                 | 3            | 115                   | 11                |
| J       | 1                 | 3            | 19                    | 13                |
| K       | 1                 | 3            | 15                    | 5                 |
| L       | 1                 | 3            | 20                    | 6                 |

**Table 9:** Diversity Index (DI) of herpetofauna from all survey sites from Tinaighat- Castlerock-Caranzol section.

| Site | Species Richness | Species Encounter Rate | Individuals Encounter Rate | Shannon's Index | Simpson's Index |
|------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| A    | 13               | 2.17                   | 16.67                      | 1.91            | 0.81            |
| B    | 5                | 1.67                   | 4.67                       | 1.53            | 0.77            |
| C    | 9                | 3.00                   | 22.00                      | 1.67            | 0.76            |
| D    | 8                | 2.67                   | 66.00                      | 0.95            | 0.52            |
| E    | 8                | 2.67                   | 8.00                       | 1.89            | 0.82            |
| F    | 9                | 3.00                   | 61.67                      | 1.02            | 0.44            |
| G    | 11               | 3.67                   | 9.67                       | 2.08            | 0.84            |
| H    | 12               | 4.00                   | 24.00                      | 1.22            | 0.47            |
| I    | 11               | 3.67                   | 38.00                      | 1.35            | 0.62            |
| J    | 13               | 4.33                   | 6.33                       | 2.35            | 0.88            |
| K    | 5                | 1.67                   | 5.00                       | 1.2             | 0.6             |
| L    | 6                | 2.00                   | 7.33                       | 1.48            | 0.71            |



**Figure 16:** Species accumulation curve of herpetofauna for all survey sites between Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol section.

Encounter rates of frequently sighted herpetofauna was calculated, where *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis* was found to be most frequently recorded species among all amphibians and *Ahaetulla borealis* was recorded most frequently among all other reptiles. Whereas encounter rates for reptiles like *Monilesaurus rouxii*, *Boiga* sp. etc. were very less during the survey period (Table 10).





**Table 10:** Encounter rate of herpetofaunal species recorded during survey between Tinaighat- Castlerock-Caranzol

| Species                                     | No. of individuals per man-hour effort |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <i>Raorchestes bombayensis</i>              | 1.67                                   |
| <i>Pseudophilautus</i> . cf. <i>amboli</i>  | 0.13                                   |
| <i>Nyctibatrachus petraeus</i>              | 1.28                                   |
| <i>Indosylvirana</i> cf. <i>caeseri</i>     | 2.36                                   |
| <i>Indirana</i> cf. <i>salelkari</i>        | 2.41                                   |
| <i>Indirana</i> cf. <i>chiravasi</i>        | 0.13                                   |
| <i>Micrixalus</i> cf. <i>uttaraghati</i>    | 0.41                                   |
| <i>Minervarya</i> cf. <i>kudremukhensis</i> | 1.64                                   |
| <i>Minervarya</i> cf. <i>caperata</i>       | 0.51                                   |
| <i>Minervarya</i> cf. <i>sahaydris</i>      | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Fejervarya</i> sp.                       | 0.05                                   |
| <i>Euphlyctis</i> cf. <i>cyanophlyctis</i>  | 9.21                                   |
| <i>Clinotarsus curtipes</i>                 | 0.54                                   |
| <i>Hydrophylax malabaricus</i>              | 0.18                                   |
| <i>Uperodon mormorata</i>                   | 0.05                                   |
| <i>Microhyla ornata</i>                     | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Polypedates</i> cf. <i>maculatus</i>     | 0.15                                   |
| <i>Rhacophorus malabaricus</i>              | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Hoplobatrachus tigerinus</i>             | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i>           | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Calotes</i> sp.                          | 0.05                                   |
| <i>Monilesaurus rouxii</i>                  | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Eutropis carinata</i>                    | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Eutropis macularia</i>                   | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Hemidactylus prashadi</i>                | 0.13                                   |
| <i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>                | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Hemidactylus</i> cf. <i>triedrus</i>     | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Cnemaspis</i> sp.                        | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Ahaetulla borealis</i>                   | 0.41                                   |
| <i>Trimeresurus malabaricus</i>             | 0.13                                   |
| <i>Oligodon taeniolatus</i>                 | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Ptyas mucosa</i>                         | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Lycodon aulicus</i>                      | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>                   | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Fowlea piscator</i>                      | 0.08                                   |
| <i>Rhabdops</i> sp.                         | 0.05                                   |
| <i>Boiga</i> sp.                            | 0.03                                   |
| <i>Melanocheilus trijuga</i>                | 0.03                                   |

## Discussion

Our record of herpetofaunal species is perhaps just representative and not exhaustive in the context of Western Ghats biodiversity due to following reasons-

1. The survey was conducted for a short period for 15 field days
2. The survey was restricted by a time of non-breeding season of most herpetofaunal species.

Species accumulation curve also indicates the inventory is far from complete (Figure 16). Long term and multi-seasonal survey would likely record species that are seasonal in their activity pattern, such as those in genera *Pedostibes*, *Rhacophorus*, *Sphaerotherca*, Caecilians (such as *Indotyphlops*) *Calliophis*, *Uropeltis* etc. During our study, 47 species of herpetofauna belonging to 23 species (19 genera and 10 families) of amphibians and 24 species (19 genera, 8 families) of reptiles were recorded (Annexure-I; see Figures 18 and 19). Out of these reptilian diversity family, Colubridae dominated the species list (10 spp.) followed by family Gekkonidae (5 spp.) (Annexure-I), whereas in case of amphibian diversity, family Dicroglossidae (6 spp.) were majority followed by family Rhacophoridae (5 spp.) (Annexure-I).

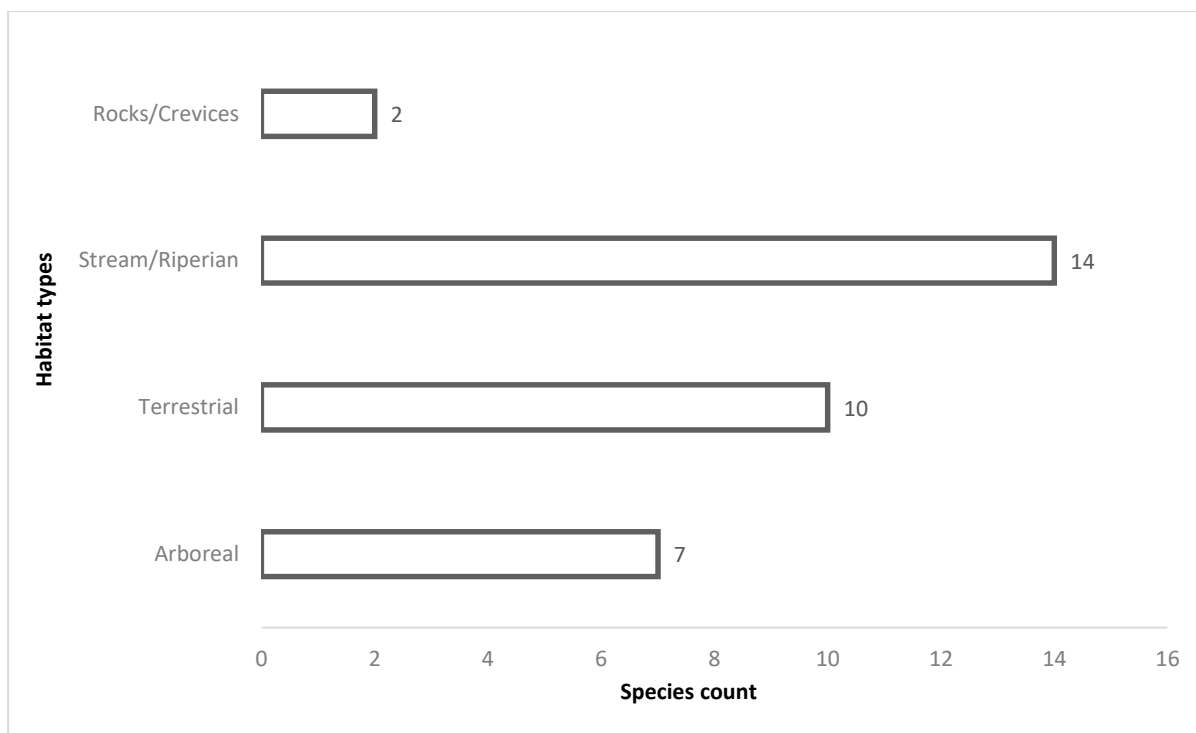
Our systematic sampling of VES along the railway track has revealed that perennial and seasonal streams, ephemeral water bodies were by far most crucial habitats for herpetofauna in terms of species richness, encounter rates and diversity indices. The maximum species diversity (13 spp.) recorded was from both Site A and Site J (Table 9). In terms of individual encounter rate, site- D (66/man-hour) was highest followed by site- F (61/man-hour) and site- I. Our analysis also showed that most diverse survey area was site- J ( $H=2.35$ ,  $D=0.88$ ), followed by site G ( $H=2.08$ ,  $D=0.84$ ) and site- A ( $H=1.91$ ,  $D=0.81$ ) [Table 9]. All these values suggest that streams and waterbodies from sites “A”, “C”, “F”, “G”, “H”, “I” are particularly important with respect to all amphibian species and few specific reptile species who are largely dependent on these kinds of water bodies for their various ecological needs.

During our surveys, *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis* was found to be most common amphibian species based on encounter rate (9.2/man-hour), followed by *Indirana* sp. (2.4/man-hour), *Indosylvirana* sp. (2.3/man-hour) etc. among all sites. However, record of most of the reptile species were based on single individual sighting. Although, *Ahaetulla borealis* was most frequently encountered (0.4/man-hour) among all other reptiles, followed by *Trimeresurus malabaricus* (0.12/man-hour) (Table 10).

### Niche preferences of encountered herpetofauna

Amongst the recorded herpetofaunal diversity 43% of the species (14 spp.) were found to be along the streams and its riparian zones (Figure 17). Streams and riparian habitats are important specifically for amphibians and also for few species of reptiles. All these stream and waterbodies lie in near vicinity ( $\leq 50$  meter) to the existing railway track and some streams are even passing the railway line through culverts.





**Figure 17:** Encountered niche of all recorded herpetofauna during our survey between Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol section

#### ***Opportunistic herpetofaunal encounters on railway tracks:***

Total 12 species of herpetofauna (6 spp. of amphibians, 6 spp. of reptiles) were recorded (Annexure-II; Figure 20). Species wise, snake was the maximum rail killed taxa, and in terms of individualistic count *Indosylvirana* sp. has been frequently encountered (5 individuals) as rail kill. Snakes were found to be most frequently killed on the railway track, as they may be using the track (warm railway lines, sleepers etc.) for thigmothermy (mode of passive thermoregulation). Our preliminary investigation is just indicative but not exhaustive of the actual rail kill scenario which could be much higher during rainy season. The highest representative (as in no. of individuals) of *Indosylvirana* appearing as a rail kill is perhaps due to their ongoing breeding season which we have encountered in our stream survey. This reflects a snapshot of the scenario where more number individual of a species might face unfortunate death on railway tracks during their respective breeding seasons.

It is fairly understandable from our survey results that all streams along the railway tracks are of paramount importance due to its habitat heterogeneity and species assemblages. Streams serve as breeding ground for many species of amphibians (for endemics such as e.g., *Nyctibatrachus petraeus* etc; Willaert et al., 2016) and niche for several species of snakes found over here. Species that are rather widespread in the landscape and relatively abundant species such as *Indosylvirana* sp., *Indirana* sp., *Clinotarsus* sp. etc. are vulnerable to railway traffic throughout the season impacting their population by way of restricting adult migration and juvenile dispersal. The species that are also prone to get killed on railway tracks are mostly snakes, that are using it as a surface for thermoregulation. Railway tracks may also serve as death traps for those animals that are less vagile and might get desiccated while trying to cross the stretch of railway line (for e.g., Caecilians; Figure 18).

Doubling of railway track will significantly impact in habitat loss that are along the existing railway lines. Associated impacts of this extension might indirectly impact on species that are dependent on auditory



clues for breeding activities as traffic related noise known to create auditory masking in amphibians (Bee et al., 2017).

Pollution and diversion of streams, due to construction of railway tracks and additional effects might lead to modification of habitats to an extent, where it can impose negative impacts for amphibians and reptiles that were inhabiting closer to railway tracks and are microhabitat specific. Western Ghats being global biodiversity hotspot, serious efforts need to be provided for minimizing the impact of any developmental activities that may directly or indirectly impact any native fauna (Vide Chapter- 4 Suggested Mitigation measure).







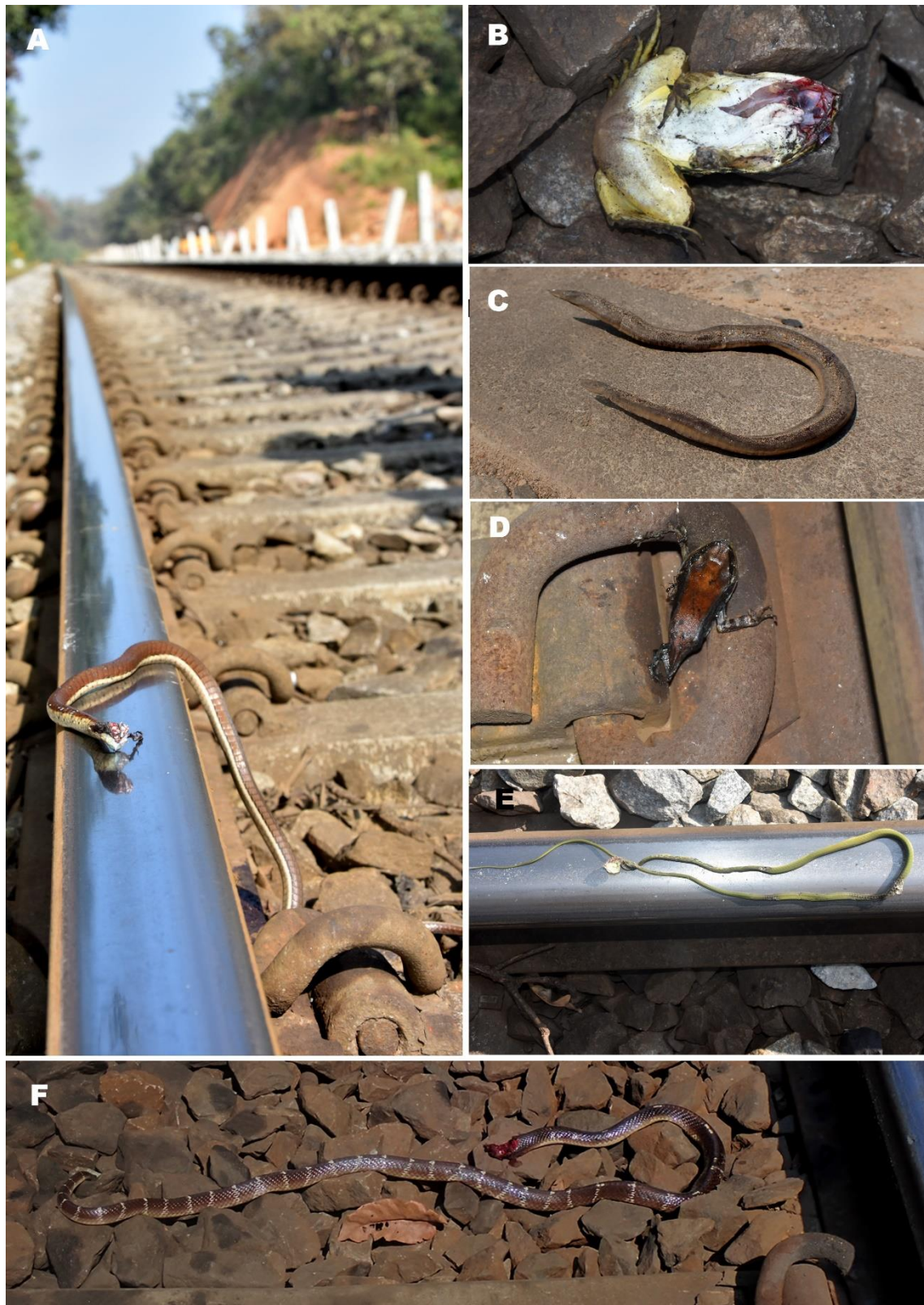
**Figure 18:** Amphibians of Castlerock (**A:** *Clinotarsus curtipes*, **B:** *Hydrophylax malabaricus*, **C:** *Nyctibatrachus petraeus*, **D:** *Indosylvirana cf caeseri*, **E:** *Pseudophilautus amboli*, **F:** *Indirana* sp., **G:** *Polypedates maculatus*, **H:** *Gaganeophis* sp).





**Figure 19:** Reptiles of Castlerock (**A:** *Hebius beddomei*, **B:** *Oligodon taeniolatus*, **C:** *Hypnale hypnale*, **D:** *Ahaetulla borealis*, **E:** *Trimeresurus malabaricus*, **F:** *Melanochelys trijuga*, **G:** *Hemidactylus* cf. *triedrus*, **H:** *Monilesaurus rouxii*).



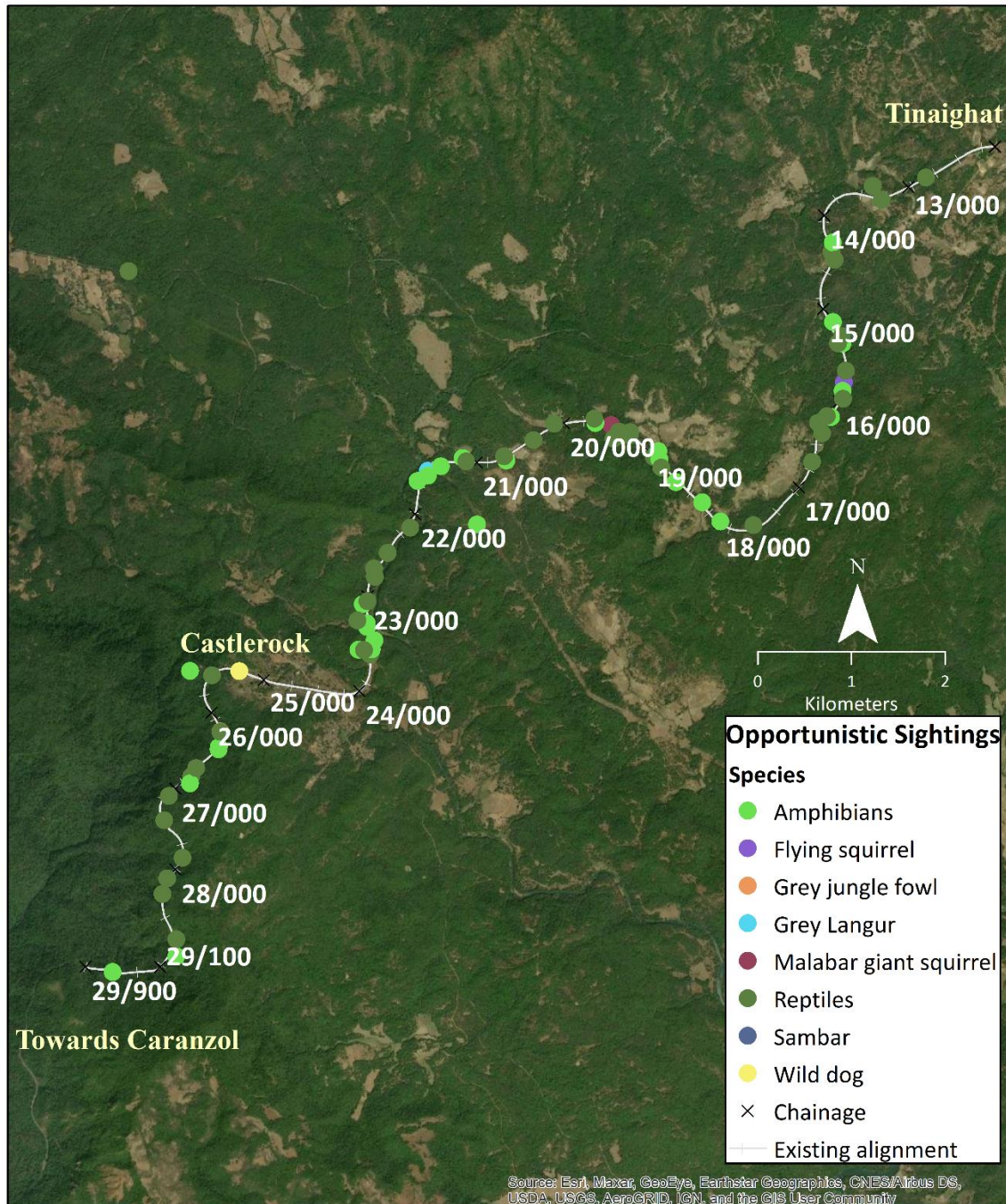


**Figure 20:** Snapshot of rail killed herpetofauna (**A.** *Dendrelaphis* sp., **B.** *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*., **C.** *Ichthyophis* sp. (dessicated), **D.** *Hydrophylax malabaricus*, **E.** *Ahaetulla borealis*, **F.** *Bungarus caeruleus*).



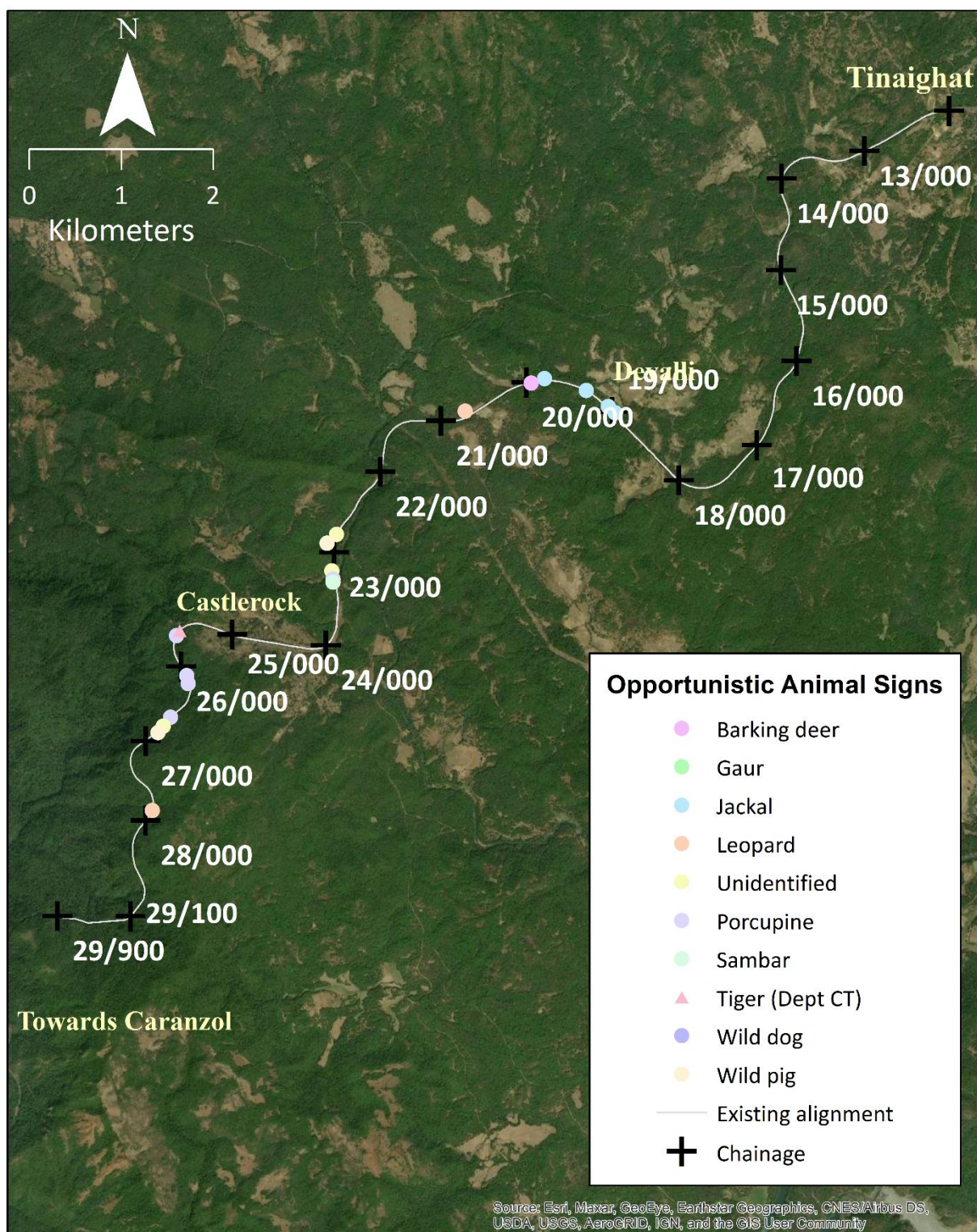
#### D. Assessment of indirect animal signs through opportunistic data

During the course of the survey, we also recorded opportunistic data viz., animal signs, sightings and rail/road mortality encountered during track surveys, as well as data from the Forest Department of Karnataka viz., rail mortality records and camera trap captures of mammals near the railway track. These data points were plotted and further used to identify potential animal crossing zones along the existing railway track (Figures 21, 22 and 23). Amphibian and reptile mortality data collected during the survey were also used.



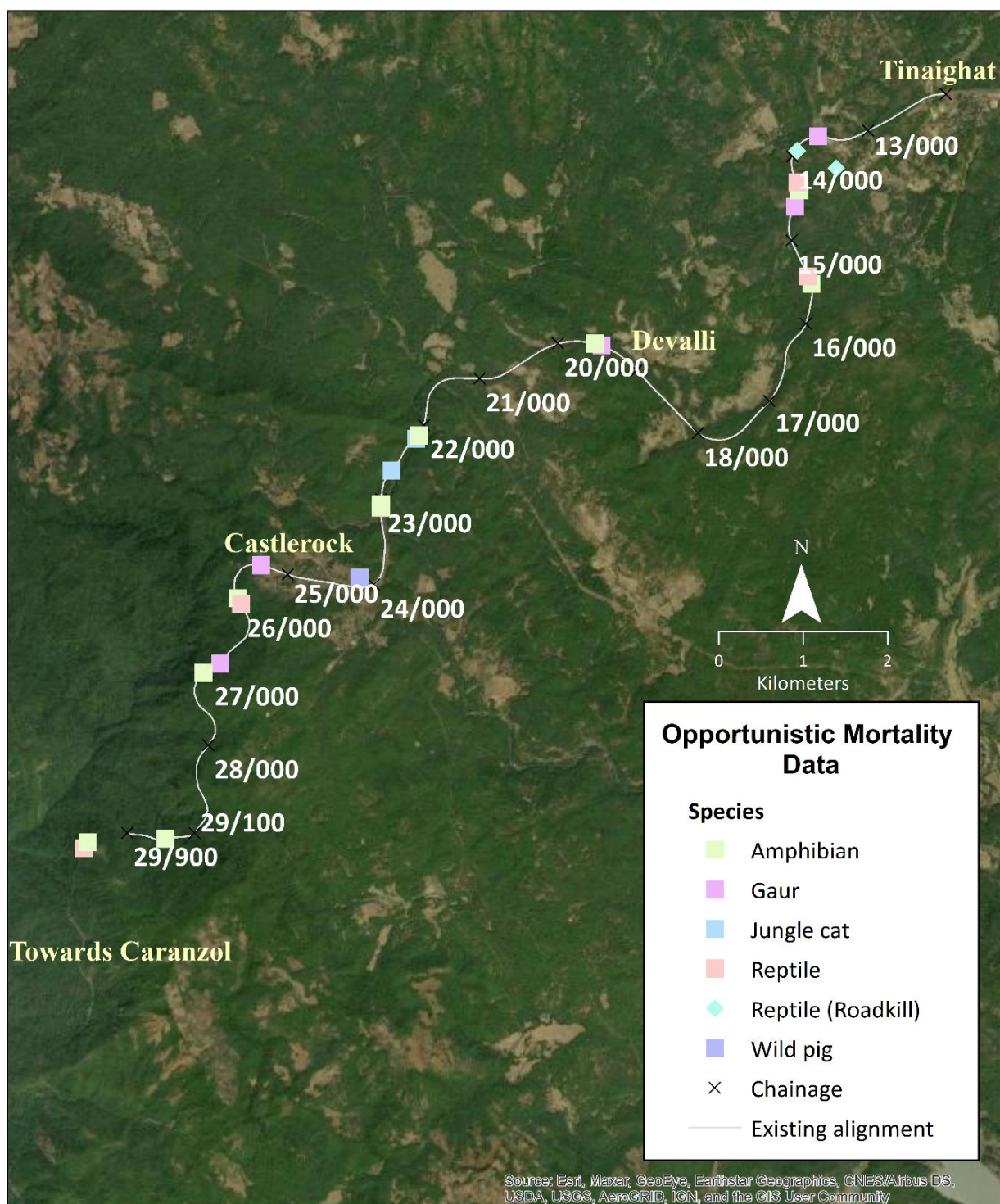
**Figure 21:** Opportunistic sightings of species recorded during the survey from Tinaighat to Caranzol section between 19.11.2020 – 04.12.2020





**Figure 22:** Opportunistic indirect signs recorded during the survey from Tinaighat to Caranzol section between 19.11.2020 – 04.12.2020. The map also includes the locations of two tiger captures obtained by camera set up by the Forest Department near the railway track.



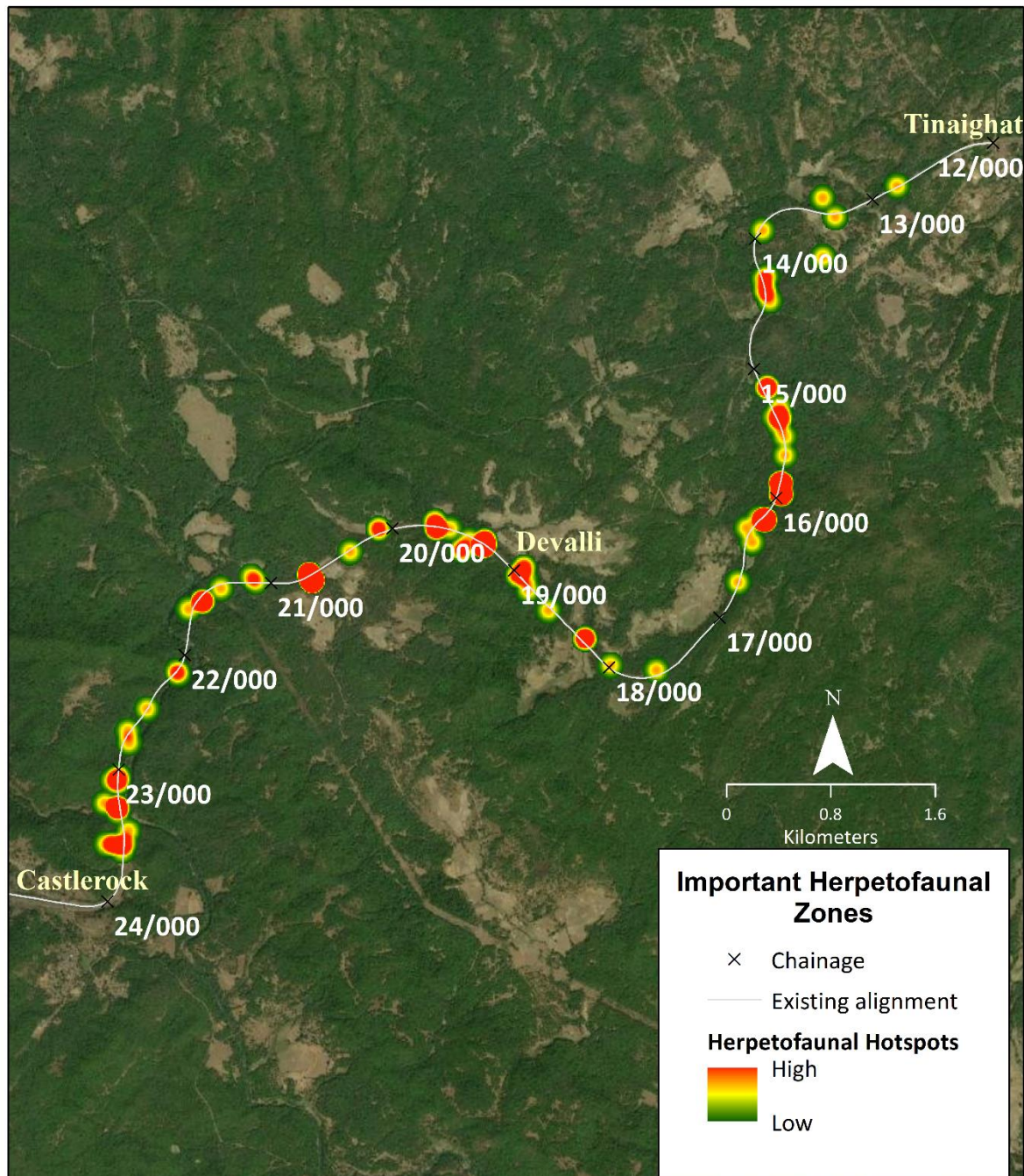


**Figure 23:** Animal mortality reported along the railway track and road (collected from the Karnataka Forest Department) and recorded during the survey by the team during 19.11.2020 – 04.12.2020 along the Tinaighat-Caranzol section.



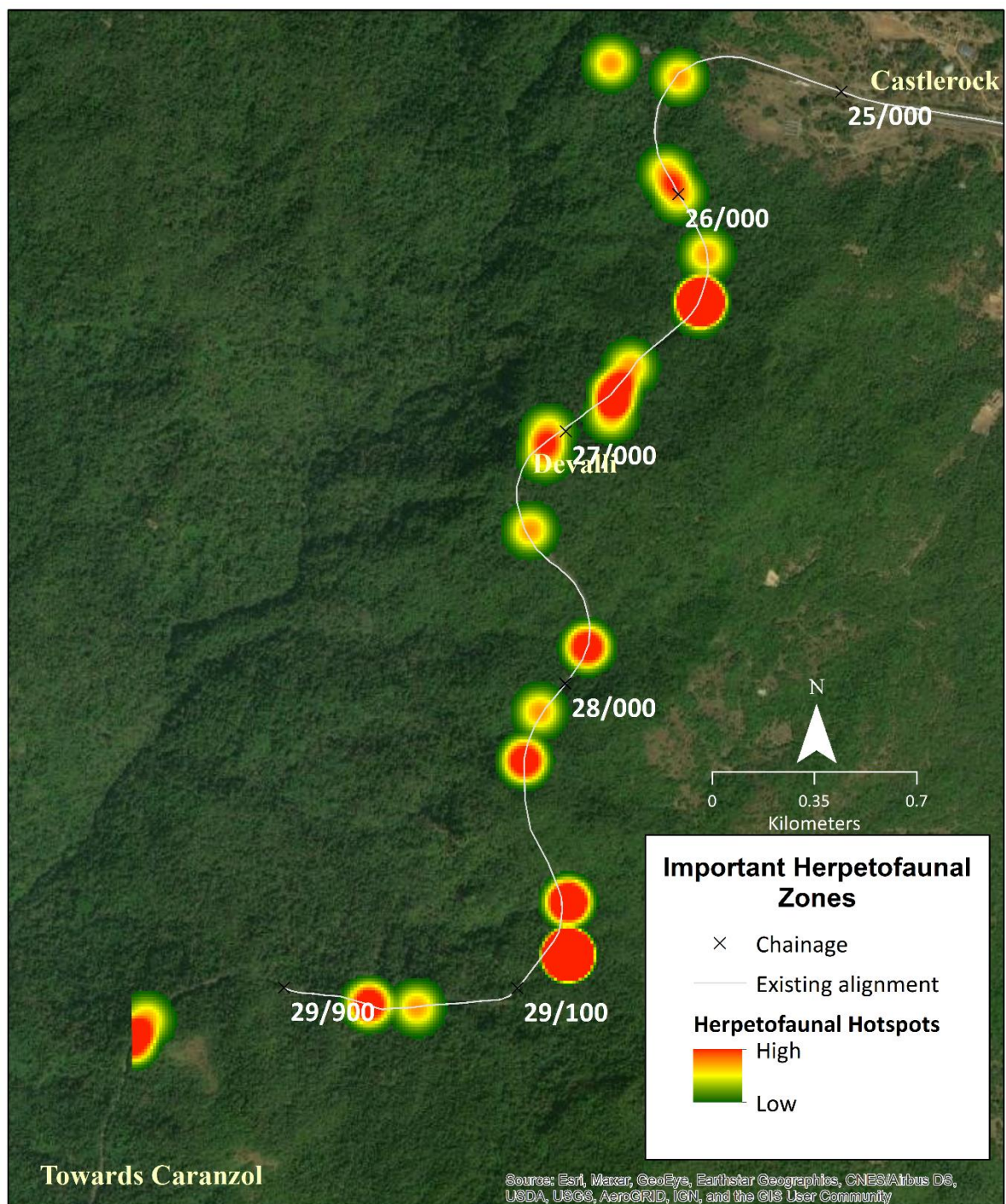
### Crossing Zones for Herpetofauna and Mammals along the railway track

Hotspots of animal activity/presence (herpetofauna– Figures 24 and 25; and mammals – Figures 26 and 27) were visualised by overlapping all animal signs, sightings, photo-captures and mortality data using kernel density analysis in GIS-platform. We used an optimum search radius of 150 m around each presence location to create hotspots of animal presence. These were then combined with the hotspots identified in the IISc reports (Sukumar and Sitharam, 2017), and potential animal crossing zones were thus delineated. Details of these potential animal crossing zones are given in Table 11.



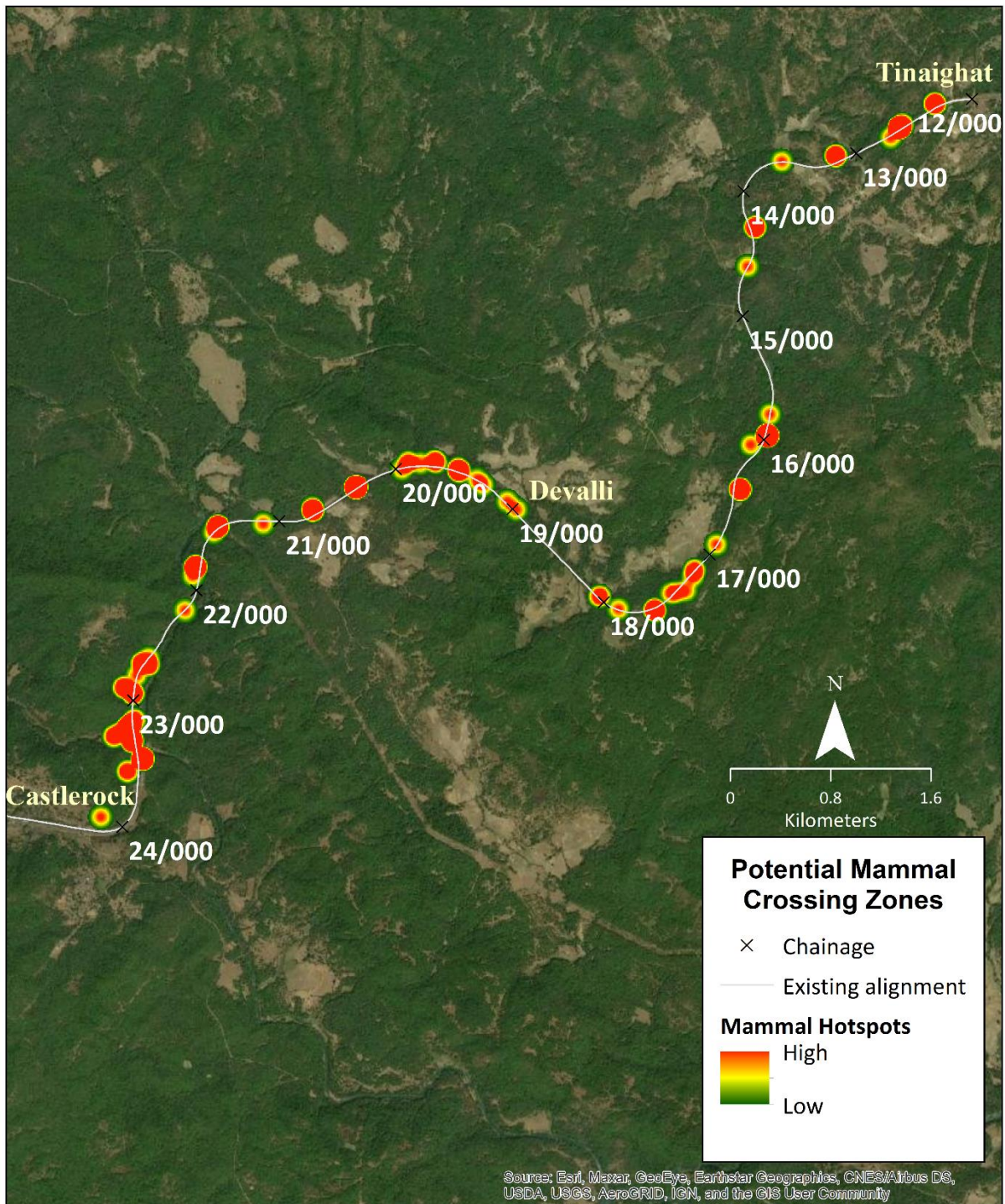
**Figure 24:** Herpetofaunal hotspots identified during the study on the Tinaighat – Castlerock railway section





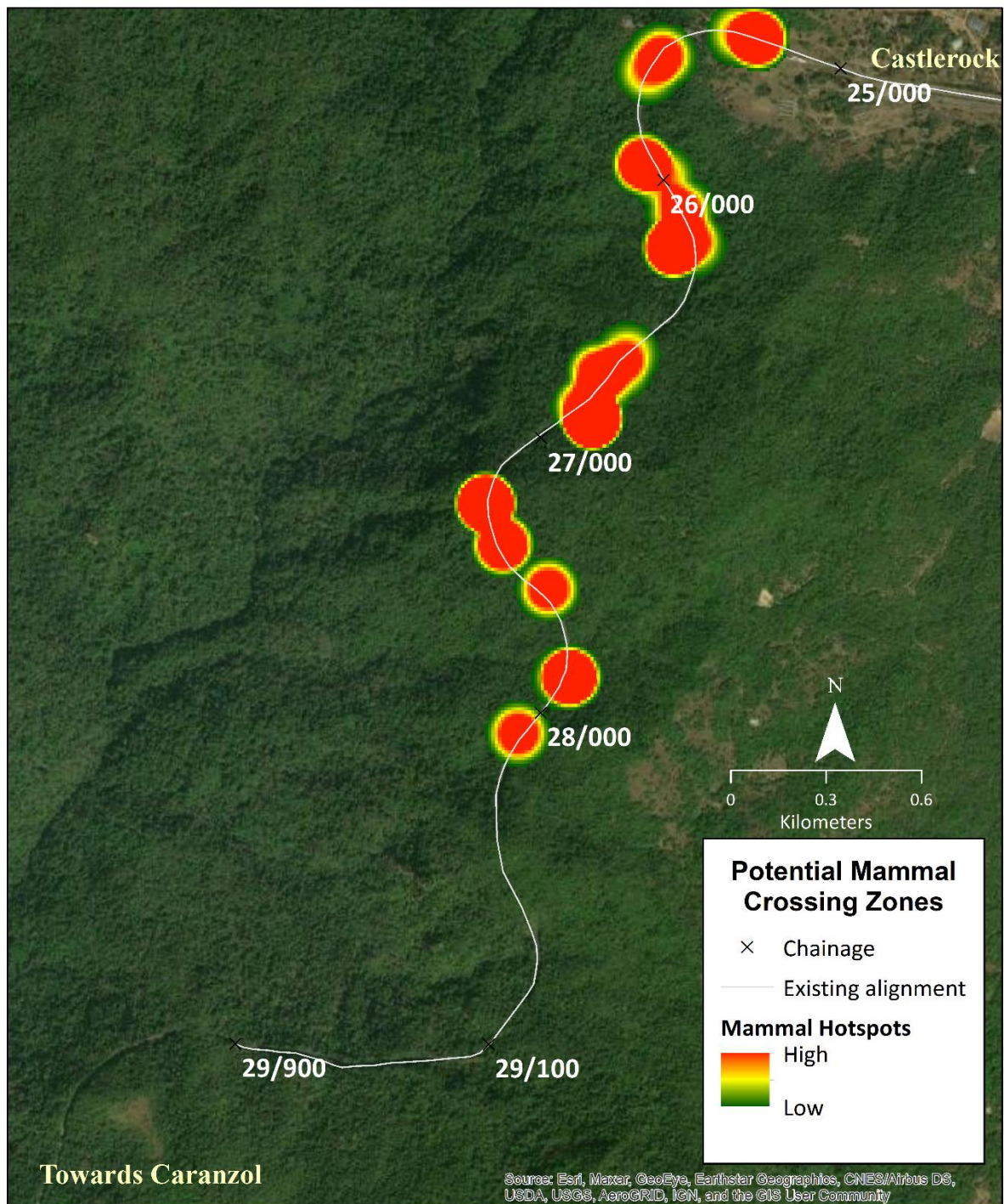
**Figure 25:** Herpetofaunal hotspots identified during the study on the Castlerock - Caranzol railway section





**Figure 26:** Hotspots of mammal presence/movement identified during the study on the Tinaighat – Castlerock railway section





**Figure 27:** Hotspots of mammal presence/movement identified during the study on the Castlerock - Caranzol railway section

Based on the mammal hotspots thus obtained, major mammal presence hotspots and potential crossing were delineated based on the combined evidence of the present survey and IISc surveys.



**Table 11:** Hotspots of animal activity/presence indicating potential animal crossing zones along existing railway line.

| Zone ID | Location                   | Chainage        | Length (m) | Category |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------|
| 1       | Tinaighat to<br>Castlerock | 12/000 – 13/000 | 1000       | High     |
| 2       |                            | 13/100 – 14/200 | 1100       | Medium   |
| 3       |                            | 14/200 – 14/400 | 200        | High     |
| 4       |                            | 14/400 – 15/000 | 600        | Medium   |
| 5       |                            | 15/000 – 16/550 | 1550       | High     |
| 6       |                            | 16/550 – 17/100 | 550        | Medium   |
| 7       |                            | 17/100 – 18/100 | 1000       | High     |
| 8       |                            | 18/100 – 19/300 | 1200       | Medium   |
| 9       |                            | 19/300 – 20/000 | 700        | High     |
| 10      |                            | 20/000 – 20/200 | 200        | Medium   |
| 11      |                            | 20/200 – 20/450 | 250        | High     |
| 12      |                            | 20/600 – 20/800 | 200        | High     |
| 13      |                            | 20/450 – 21/350 | 900        | Medium   |
| 14      |                            | 21/350 – 21/950 | 600        | High     |
| 15      |                            | 21/950 – 22/600 | 650        | Medium   |
| 16      |                            | 22/600 – 23/600 | 1000       | High     |
| 17      |                            | 23/600 – 24/300 | 700        | Medium   |
| 18      | Castlerock to              | 25/100 – 26/300 | 1200       | High     |
| 19      | Caranzol                   | 26/300 – 26/600 | 300        | Medium   |
| 20      |                            | 26/600 – 26/950 | 350        | High     |
| 21      |                            | 26/950 – 27/200 | 300        | Medium   |
| 22      |                            | 26/200 – 28/200 | 2000       | High     |
| 23      |                            | 28/200 – 29/900 | 1700       | Medium   |

We identified 12 major potential crossing zones along the entire stretch of the railway track within 'high' category, and 11 minor potential crossing zones within the 'medium' category. Of these 17 potential crossing zones were identified in the Tinaighat to Castlerock segment while 6 were identified in the Castlerock to Caranzol segment. Railway segments falling within the 'high' animal hotspot identified during the present study and overlapping with either of the caution zones or animal activity clusters identified by IISc were assigned category 'high'. Segments falling within the medium-low animal hotspot identified during the present study and overlapping with either of the caution zones or animal activity clusters identified by IISc were assigned category 'medium'.

## CHAPTER 4: Railway Track Evaluation for Mitigation Measures

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### ***Evaluation of railway track from Tinaighat to Caranzol for mitigation measures***

For mitigation measures on the proposed railway track that runs parallel to the existing track, we collated the information on animal presence, crossing and use from our camera trapping exercise, habitat plot for indirect animal signs, opportunistic and systematic herpetofaunal surveys (for e.g. within habitat plots, visual encounter surveys on streams and along existing railway catchment areas). The information was then used to map areas of potential animal use along the proposed railway track.

The track assessment survey was carried out by walking along the entire length of the Tinaighat-Castlerock-Caranzol railway line and assessing each 100 m stretch in terms of habitat type, topography on either side of the track, presence of natural drainage, animal trails, and structures on existing track.

Areas of intensive animal use resulting from the present survey were combined with those mentioned in Sukumar and Sitharam (2017) and Suresh et al. (2020). These areas were then overlapped with the existing railway alignment in order to suggest modification of existing structures to act as mitigation measures and propose new structures according to identified multispecies crossing zone.

Given below is kilometre by kilometre description of the existing and proposed railway tracks, and the mitigation measures proposed. Needless to say, the mitigation measures would have to be constructed on the existing railway track also in order for the measures to be effective.

The details of designs of crossing structures, fences, overpasses, level crossings canopy bridges have been provided in the subsequent sections with illustrations.

### ***A. Chainage-wise mitigation measures for existing and proposed railway track from Tinaighat to Castlerock***

#### ***Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 12/000 – 13/000***

The chainage 12/000 is at the end of the Tinaighat railway station and railway yard. A contiguous patch of forests is present on the right side of the track, while the left side has a forest patch with agricultural areas towards Tinaighat railway station. The terrain along this section is flat.

Suresh et al. (2020) identified two 'caution zones' (Table 3) on the railway track within this chainage- one zone from chainage 12/000 to 12/500 (measuring 500 m) and the second one from chainage 12/600 to 13/000 (measuring 400 m).

We found barking deer and sambar signs from our habitat plots, and multiple mammalian species viz., chital, gaur, black-naped hare, mouse deer, porcupine, and small Indian civet through our camera trapping exercise. Therefore, this segment is an important potential crossing zone for mammals. In this section, one perennial stream exists at chainage 12/233 which can serve as a potential breeding habitat of amphibians.

Considering the above factors, the details of mitigation measures proposed for this chainage are given in Table 12 and shown in Figure 28.

Increase in dimensions with ledges for structures 1 and 2 is recommended to make the structures more suitable for use by animals. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures.

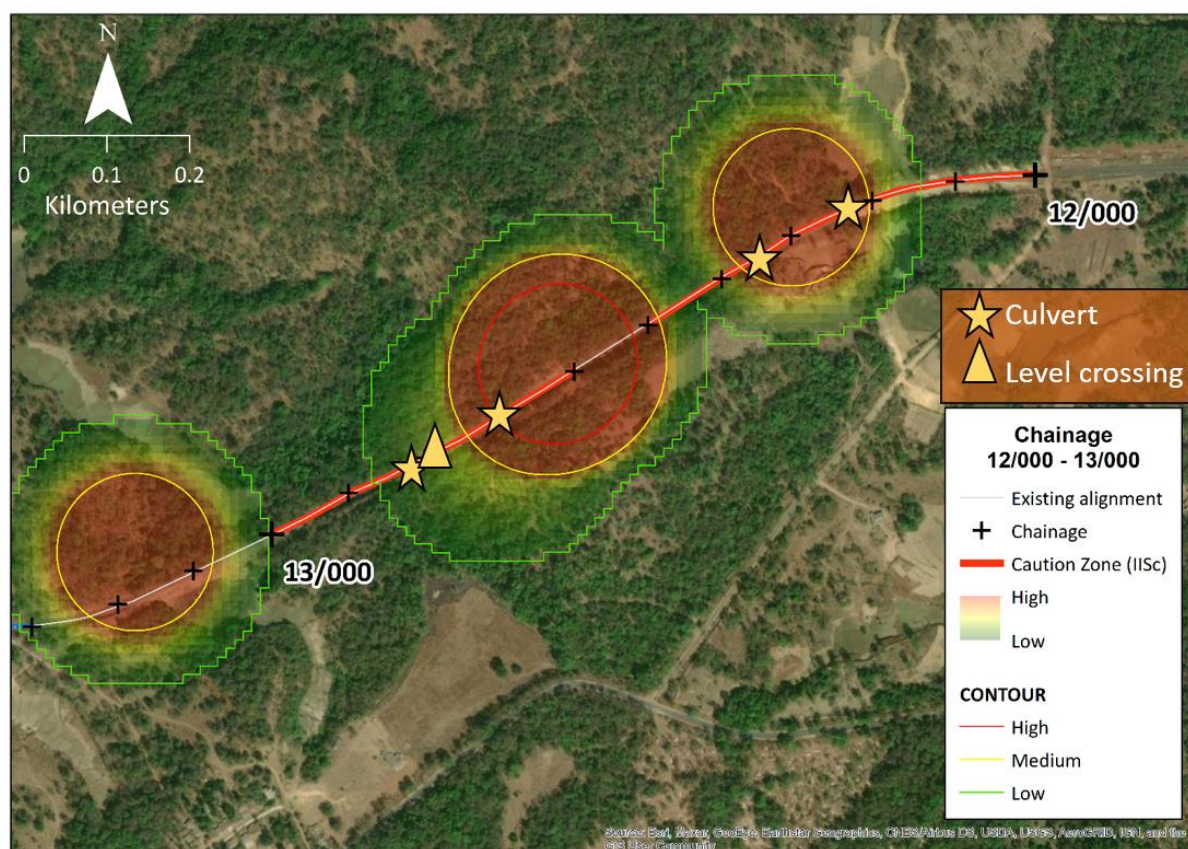


A level crossing for animals is proposed at 12/795 with a width of approximately 30 – 35 m, equipped with cattle guard and automated animal detection and warning system to repel animals from the track of an incoming train (Approximate mid-point GPS is 15° 26.756, 074° 23.512).

For structures 3 and 5, there is no scope to increase the dimensions of the proposed structure.

**Table 12:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 12/000 – 13/000.

| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                         | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                         | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                         |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure type                       | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Structure type                               | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 12/233   | Arch culvert                         | 1 x 1.52 x 4.25                         | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.52 x 4.25                         | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 4.5                             |
| 2.     | 12/350   | Pipe culvert                         | 1 x 2 x 0.8                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2 x 2                               | RCC Box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 2                               |
| 3.     | 12/702   | Pipe culvert                         | 1 x 2 x 0.3                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.55 x 1.80                         | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 1.55 x 1.80                         |
| 4.     | 12/795   | NIL                                  | NIL                                     | NIL                                          | NIL                                     | Level crossing                                                   | 30-35 (width)                           |
| 5.     | 12/812   | RCC slab                             | 1x 2 x 1.46                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3.760 x 1.5                         | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 3.760 x 1.5                         |



**Figure 28:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 12/000 – 13/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track (NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).

### **Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 13/000 – 14/000**

This section has a mixed land use type. The relatively straight section has agriculture on one side, while the major curve (13/500-14/000) has forest on both sides.

Suresh et al. (2020) have identified a part of this section as an important cluster of animal activity/movement. The section from chainage 13/300 – 14/400 has been classified to have 'high' animal activity.

We found barking deer captures in this segment through our camera trapping exercise. We also found several reptilian evidences (direct sightings and roadkill) during the survey. A gaur rail kill was also reported from this section (near chainage 13/250) in August 2020. A perennial stream is present at the chainage 13/188 which can be an important breeding habitat for amphibians. Therefore, this segment is an important potential crossing zone for mammals as well as an important herpetofaunal hotspot.

Considering the above factors, the details of mitigation measures proposed for this chainage are given in Table 13 and shown in Figure 29.

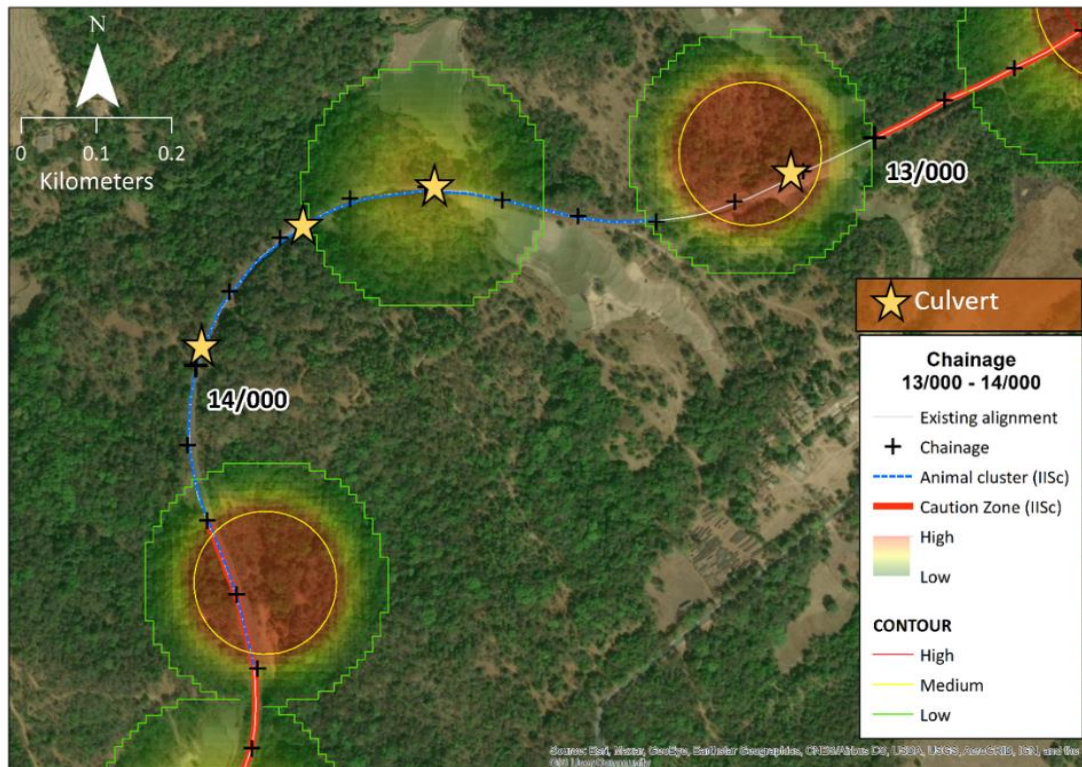
An increase in dimensions for structures 2, 3 and 4 is recommended with ledges to make the structures more suitable for use by animals. The RCC pipe culvert at chainage 13/772 should be converted to an RCC box culvert measuring 3 x 5 x 2.5 m. The additional culverts should be constructed to the right of the existing culvert (towards Tinaighat).

For structure 1, there is no scope to increase the dimensions of the proposed structure.

**Table 13:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 13/000 – 14/000.

| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                      | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                      | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                      |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure type                       | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                               | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 13/118   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.55 x 2.55                      | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.55 x 2.55                      | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 2.55 x 2.55                      |
| 2.     | 13/597   | RCC box                              | 2 x 1.25 x 1.5                       | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3.05 x 1.8                       | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 2                            |
| 3.     | 13/772   | RCC pipe                             | 1 x 1 x 1.2                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.2 x 1.5                        | RCC box                                                          | 3 x 5 x 2.5                          |
| 4.     | 13/993   | RCC box                              | 1 x 1.02 x 0.625                     | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3 x 1.8                          | RCC box                                                          | 4 x 5 x 2                            |





**Figure 29:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 13/000 – 14/000 to be constructed on an existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).

#### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 14/000 – 15/000

This is a relatively flat section of the railway track. Forests lie on both sides of the track on this section with the exception of the stretch between 14/400 and 14/600.

In this section, we found gaur signs from our habitat plots. A gaur rail kill was also reported from this section (near chainage 14/600) in October 2019. We have also recorded herpetofaunal species such as *Ptyas* sp., as well as direct evidences of rail kills such as *Ahaetulla* sp., *Duttaphrynus* sp. during the survey. Therefore, this segment is an important potential crossing zone for mammals as well as an important herpetofaunal hotspot.

Increase in dimensions for structures 1 and 2 is recommended to make the structures more suitable for use by animals. The two drainage structures between 14/230 and 14/295 may be merged as one long underpass spanning 20 m in width. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures.

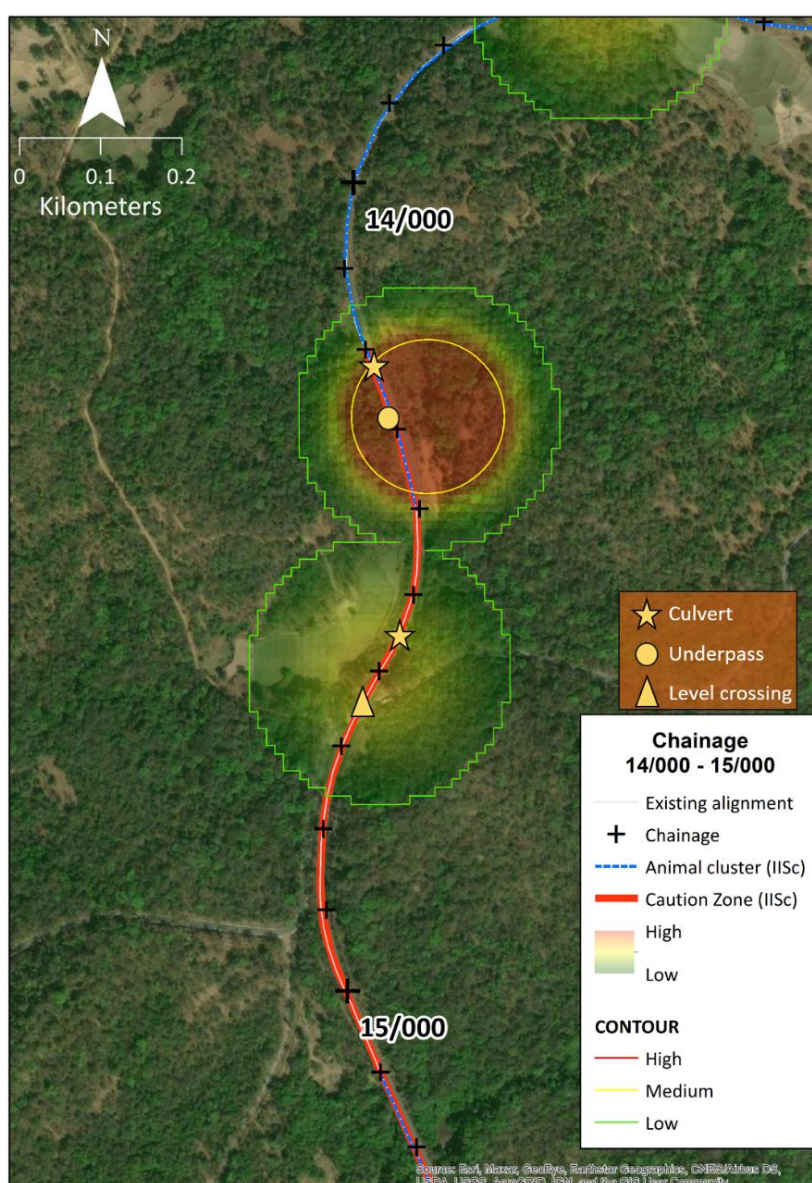
For structure 3, there is no scope to increase the dimensions of the proposed structure. Thus the RCC box culvert at 14/550 may be retained in the proposed dimensions. The details of structures are given in Table 14 and Figure 30.

The level crossing of the Panjim-Balgaum road at 14/650 is proposed to be decommissioned after the construction of the flyover at 14/940. The road across the railway line would also get decommissioned. In such a scenario, it is proposed to maintain the road level crossing of 50 m width as a level crossing for wild animals. Other specifications for the animal level crossing have been provided in the section 'General Recommendations'.

For the highway flyover being constructed at chainage 14/940, it is recommended to install adequate noise and sound barriers.

**Table 14:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 14/000 – 15/000.

| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                      | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                      | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                      |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure type                       | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                               | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 14/230   | RCC pipe                             | 1 x 2 x 1.22                         | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3 x 1.8                          | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 5                            |
| 2.     | 14/295   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.55 x 2.3                       | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.55 x 2.3                       | Underpass                                                        | 1 x 20 x 4.5                         |
| 3.     | 14/450   | Nil                                  | Nil                                  | Nil                                          | Nil                                  | Level crossing with early warning system                         | 50 (width)                           |
| 4.     | 14/550   | RCC box                              | 1 x 3.08 x 1.55                      | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3.08 x 1.8                       | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 3.08 x 1.8                       |



**Figure 30:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 14/000 – 15/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).



### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 15/000 – 16/000

This section of the railway track has good forest cover on both sides. The terrain is relatively flat.

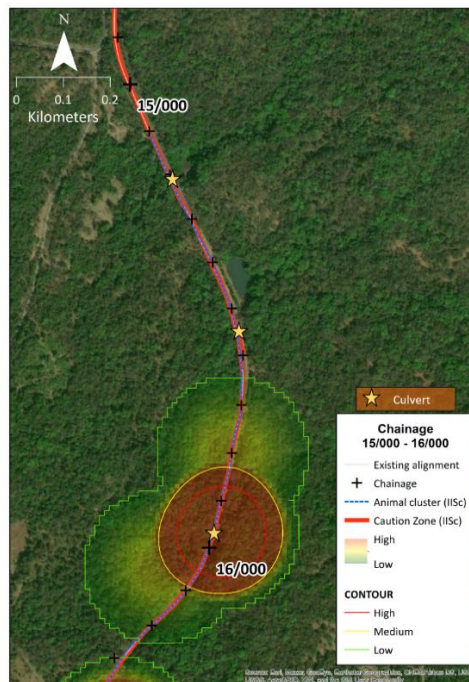
Suresh et al. (2020) have classified the section from chainage 15/100 to 17/000 as a 'high' animal activity/movement zone. This section has also been identified as a 'caution zone' in the report.

In this section, we found multiple captures of gaur, langur, porcupine and wild pig during our camera trapping exercise, as well as sighting of the elusive Malabar flying squirrel. Three perennial streams are existing in this section at the chainages 15/962, 15/552, and 15/213 which are crucial habitat for herpetofauna especially for amphibians during the breeding season. In this section we have recorded around 10 species of herpetofauna, as well as rail kill of *Dendrelaphis* sp. Thus this section is important for mammals, arboreal species and herpetofauna. The details of structures are given in Table 15 and Figure 31.

Increase in dimensions for all three structures is recommended to make the structures more suitable for use by animals. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures.

**Table 15:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 15/000 – 16/000.

| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                      | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                      | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                       |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure type                       | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                               | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Structure type (No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 15/213   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.35 x 2.65                      | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.35 x 2.65                      | RCC box                                                          | 4 x 5 x 3                             |
| 2.     | 15/552   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.45 x 2.0                       | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.45 x 2.0                       | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 4.5                           |
| 3.     | 15/962   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.4 x 1.85                       | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.4 x 1.85                       | RCC box                                                          | 3 x 5 x 4.5                           |



**Figure 31:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 15/000 – 16/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).

### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 16/000 – 17/000

This section of the railway track has good forest cover in the beginning, followed by agricultural area on one side.

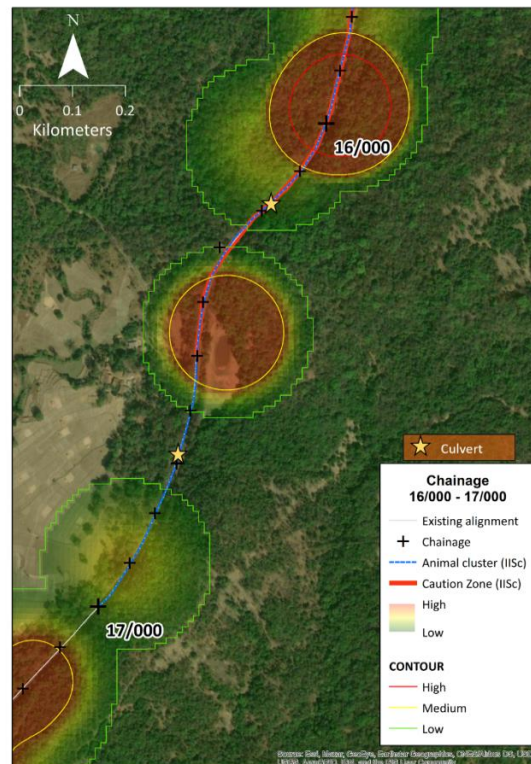
In this section, camera traps revealed presence of porcupine and wild pig, as well as multiple indirect signs of porcupine. In this section, arboreal reptiles such as *Ahaetulla borealis* were frequently recorded on the vegetation along the railway track.

This section falls within the 'high' animal activity zone identified by Suresh et al. (2020), and chainage 16/000 – 16/500 within a 'caution zone'.

Increase in dimensions for both structures is recommended to make the structures more suitable for use by animals. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures. The details of structures are given in Table 16 and Figure 32.

**Table 16:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 16/000 – 17/000.

| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                         | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                         | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                         |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure type                       | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Structure type                               | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 16/188   | Pipe culvert                         | 1 x 2 x 1.25                            | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.92 x 1.8                          | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 2.5                             |
| 2.     | 16/688   | RCC box                              | 1 x 1.83 x 2.88                         | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.83 x 2.88                         | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 3                               |



**Figure 32:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 16/000 – 17/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).



### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 17/000 – 18/000

This section has a narrow belt of forest along both sides. The latter part of the section is curved.

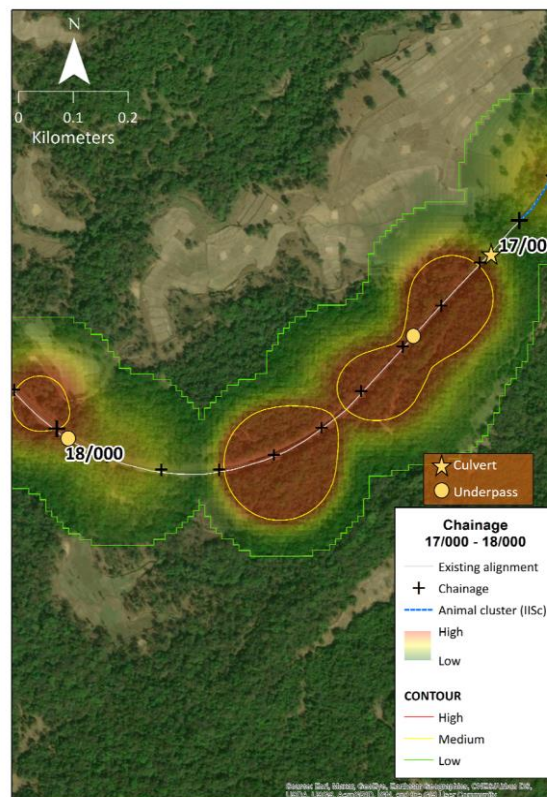
Camera trapping in this section revealed the presence of multiple mammalian species viz., bonnet macaque, gaur, langur, sambar, small Indian civet and wild pig. Multiple indirect signs of porcupine were also found from the habitat plots. In this section, we have recorded eight species of herpetofauna.

Increase in dimensions for structure 1 is recommended to make the structure more suitable for use by animals. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures. The details of structures are given in Table 17 and Figure 33.

Two non-drainage underpasses are recommended at chainages 17/280 and 17/950. Adequate height for the same is available on both sides of the existing track.

**Table 17:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 17/000 – 18/000.

| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                      | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                       | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                      |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure type                       | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                               | Dimension (m) ((No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 17/074   | RCC pipe                             | 1 x 1.2                              | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.2 x 1.8                         | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 2                            |
| 2.     | 17/280   | NIL                                  | NIL                                  | NIL                                          | NIL                                   | Underpass                                                        | 2 x 5 x 3                            |
| 3.     | 17/950   | NIL                                  | NIL                                  | NIL                                          | NIL                                   | Underpass                                                        | 1 x 50 x 5.5                         |



**Figure 33:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 17/000 – 18/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).

### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 18/000 - 19/000

This segment of the railway track has both agriculture and forest areas along both sides. The track is straight, and terrain is flat.

Suresh et al. (2020) have identified part of this segment (18/200 – 19/000) as having ‘very high’ animal activity/movement. A gaur mortality was also reported from this segment (between chainage 18/150 – 18/350) in April 2019.

Camera trapping in this section revealed presence of bonnet macaque, while jackal signs were found on the tracks. In this section a perennial stream exists at the chainage 18/251. We have recorded 12 species of herpetofauna including ground dwelling reptiles such as *Bungarus caeruleus*, *Oligodon taeniolatus*, *Hemidactylus cf. triedrus* etc.

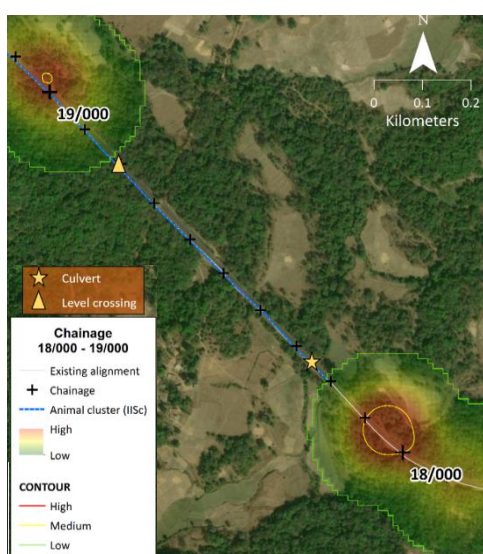
Considering the above factors, the details of mitigation measures proposed for this chainage are given in Table 18 and shown in Figure 34.

For structure 1, there is no scope to increase the dimensions of the proposed structure. Thus, the proposed dimensions are to be retained.

A level crossing for animals is proposed at 18/800 with a width of 50 m, equipped with cattle guard and automated animal detection and warning system to repel animals from the track of an incoming train.

**Table 18:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 18/000 – 19/000.

| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                      | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                      | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                      |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure type                       | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                               | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 18/251   | RCC box                              | 2 x 3.34 x 3.6                       | RCC box                                      | 2 x 3.34 x 3.6                       | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 3.34 x 3.6                       |
| 2.     | 18/800   | NIL                                  | NIL                                  | NIL                                          | NIL                                  | Level crossing with early warning system                         | 50 (width)                           |



**Figure 34:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 18/000 – 19/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track (NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).



### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 19/000 - 20/000

This section has good forest cover along the track. Suresh et al. (2020) have identified the entire length of this segment as having 'very high' animal activity/movement.

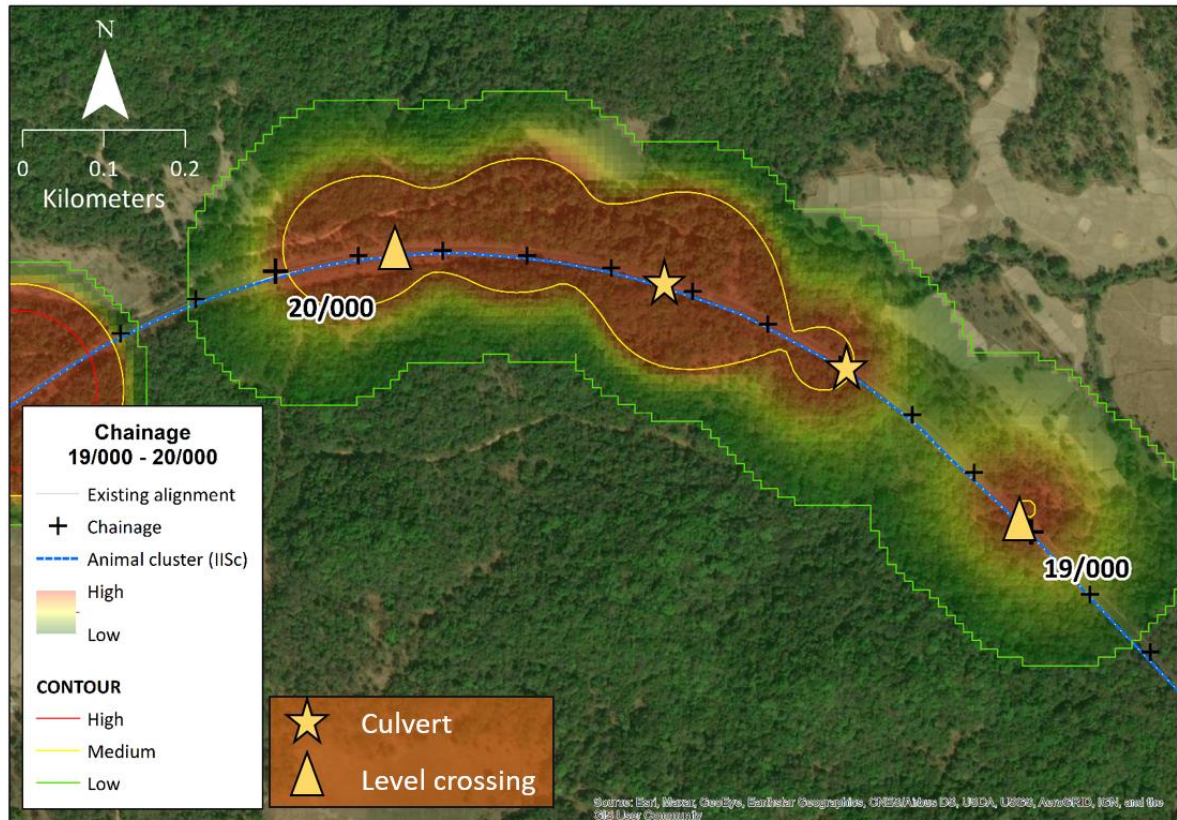
Camera trapping in this section revealed presence of jackal, leopard, side-striped mongoose and porcupine. We also found indirect evidences of jackal, barking deer, sambar and gaur during the survey. A gaur rail kill was also reported from this section (near chainage 19/500) in May 2019. Perennial streams are present at the chainages 19/292 and 19/520 which are important breeding habitat of amphibians.

Increase in dimensions for structures 2 and 3 is recommended to make the structures more suitable for use by animals. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures.

Two level crossings for animals are proposed at 19/060 and 19/850 each with a width of 50 m, equipped with cattle guard and automated animal detection and warning system to repel animals from the track of an incoming train (Approximate mid-point GPS is 15° 26.756, 074° 23.512). The details of mitigation measures proposed for this chainage are given in Table 19 and shown in Figure 35.

**Table 19:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 19/000 – 20/000.

| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                         | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                         | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                         |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure type                       | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Structure type                               | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 19/060   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Level crossing with early warning signal                         | 50 (width)                              |
| 2.     | 19/292   | RCC pipe for culvert                 | 1 X 2 x 1.2                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3 x 1.8                             | RCC box                                                          | 4 x 5 x 3.5                             |
| 3.     | 19/520   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.35 x 2.5                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.35 x 2.5                          | RCC box                                                          | 5 x 5 x 3.5                             |
| 4.     | 19/850   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Level crossing with early warning signal                         | 50 (width)                              |



**Figure 35:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 19/000 – 20/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).





### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 20/000 – 21/000

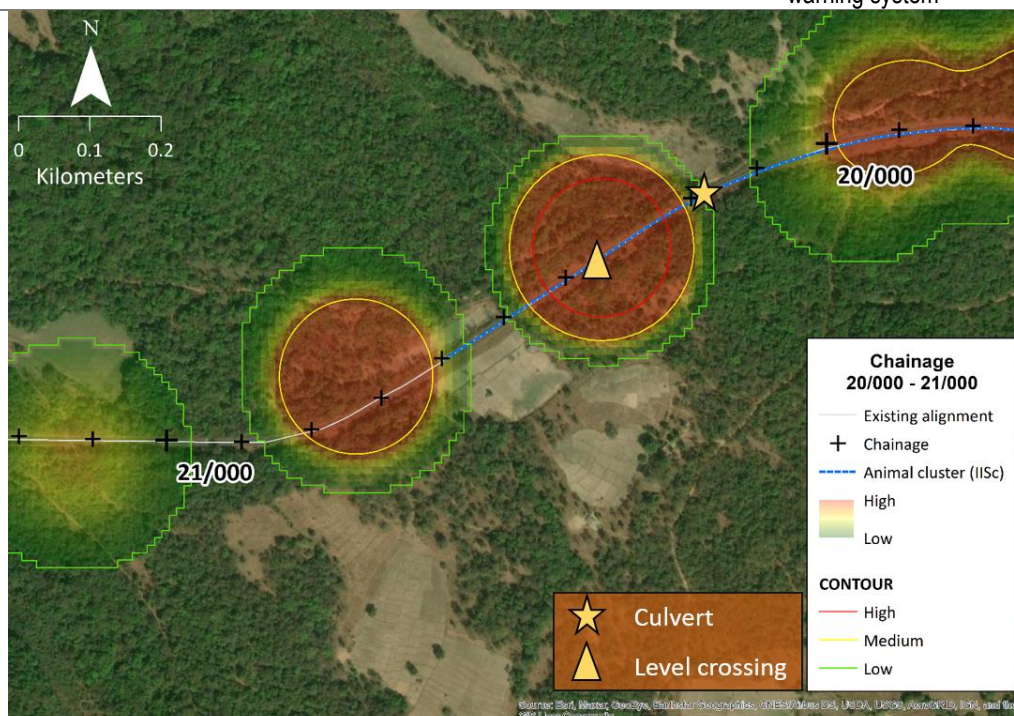
This segment consists of two minor curves and is interspersed with forest and agricultural areas along the track. Suresh et al. (2020) have identified part of this segment (20/000 – 20/600) as having ‘very high’ animal activity/movement.

Camera trapping in this segment revealed presence of black-naped hare, sambar and wild pig. Leopard sign was recorded during the survey, as well as reptile species such as *Ahaetulla borealis* and *Hemidactylus prashadi* were frequently recorded in this section..

Considering the above factors, the details of mitigation measures proposed for this chainage are given in Table 20 and shown in Figure 36. Increase in dimensions for structure 1 is recommended to make the structure more suitable for use by animals. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures. A level crossing for animals is proposed at 20/350 with a width of 50 m, equipped with cattle guard and automated animal detection and warning system to repel animals from the track of an incoming train.

**Table 20:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 20/000 – 21/000.

| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                      | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                      | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                      |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure type                       | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                               | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 20/190   | RCC pipe for culvert                 | 1 X 1 x 1.2                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.2 x 1.8                        | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 2 x 2                            |
| 2.     | 20/350   | NIL                                  | NIL                                  | NIL                                          | NIL                                  | Level crossing with early warning system                         | 50 (width)                           |



**Figure 36:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 20/000 – 21/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).

### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 21/000 – 22/000

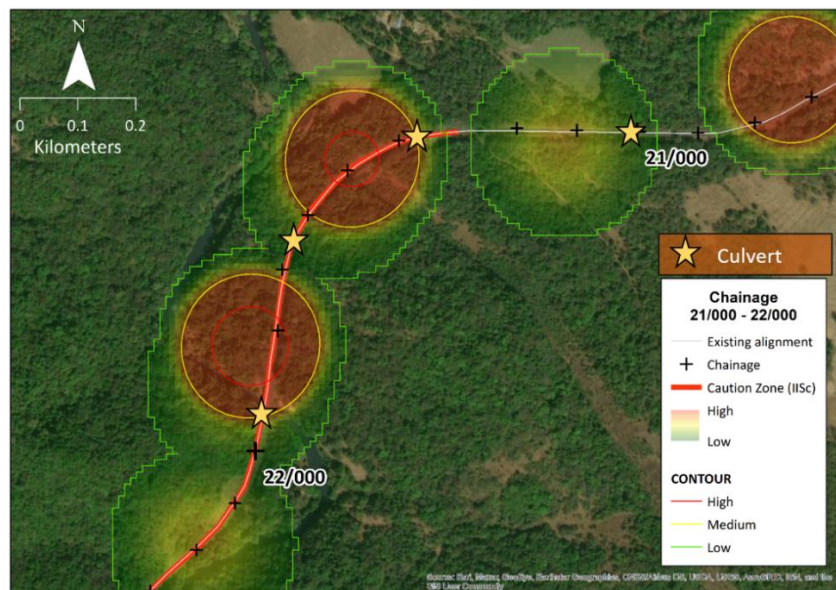
This segment of the railway track is on a major curve, and ends near the Duski River. The terrain on both sides of the track is slightly undulating. Suresh et al. (2020) have designated part of this segment (21/300 – 22/000) as a 'caution' zone.

Camera trapping on this segment revealed the presence of bonnet macaque, leopard, mouse deer, porcupine, sambar, small Indian civet and wild pig. A large perennial stream exists at the chainage 21/002 which is an important breeding habitat for amphibian species. Here, we have also recorded large number of individuals of *Euphlyctis cf. cyanophlyctis*, *Indosylvirana cf. caeseri*, *Clinotarsus curtipes* and tree frogs such *Rhacophorus malabaricus*.

Considering the above factors, the details of mitigation measures proposed for this chainage are given in Table 21 and shown in Figure 37. Increase in dimensions for structures 1, 2 and 3 is recommended to make the structures more suitable for use by animals. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures. For structure 4, there is no scope to increase the dimensions of the proposed structure and is adequate for animal movement in its proposed dimensions, given the provision of ledges along the wall.

**Table 21:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 21/000 – 22/000.

| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                      | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                      | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                      |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure type                       | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                               | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 21/002   | RCC box                              | 2 x 2.6 x 3.65                       | RCC box                                      | 1 x 5.5 x 3.65                       | RCC box                                                          | 3 x 5 x 5                            |
| 2.     | 21/381   | RCC pipe for culvert                 | 1 x 1 x 1.2                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.2 x 1.8                        | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 4 x 2                            |
| 3.     | 21/655   | RCC pipe for culvert                 | 1 x 1.2 x 2.85                       | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.2 x 2.85                       | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 4 x 4                            |
| 4.     | 21/978   | Arch                                 | 1 x 5 x 12.2                         | PSC Slab                                     | 1 x 5 x 12.2                         | PSC Slab                                                         | 1 x 5 x 12.2                         |



**Figure 37:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 21/000 – 22/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).



### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 22/000 – 23/000

This is a relatively straight segment of the railway track with slightly undulating terrain on both sides of the railway track. This segment lies within the protected area of Castlerock wildlife range. Part of this segment (22/000 – 22/800) has been identified as a 'caution' zone by Suresh et al. (2020).

Camera trapping on this segment revealed presence of sambar. Multiple mammalian signs viz., gaur, porcupine, sambar and wild pig were recorded from this area during the survey. In this section we recorded arboreal reptiles such as *Monilesaurus rouxii* on the vegetation along the railway track. We have also recorded rail kills of reptile (*Lycodon* sp.) and amphibians (*Indosylvirana* sp. and *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*). Two jungle cat rail kill were also reported from this section (near chainages 22/100 in November 2018 and 22/600 in August 2016).

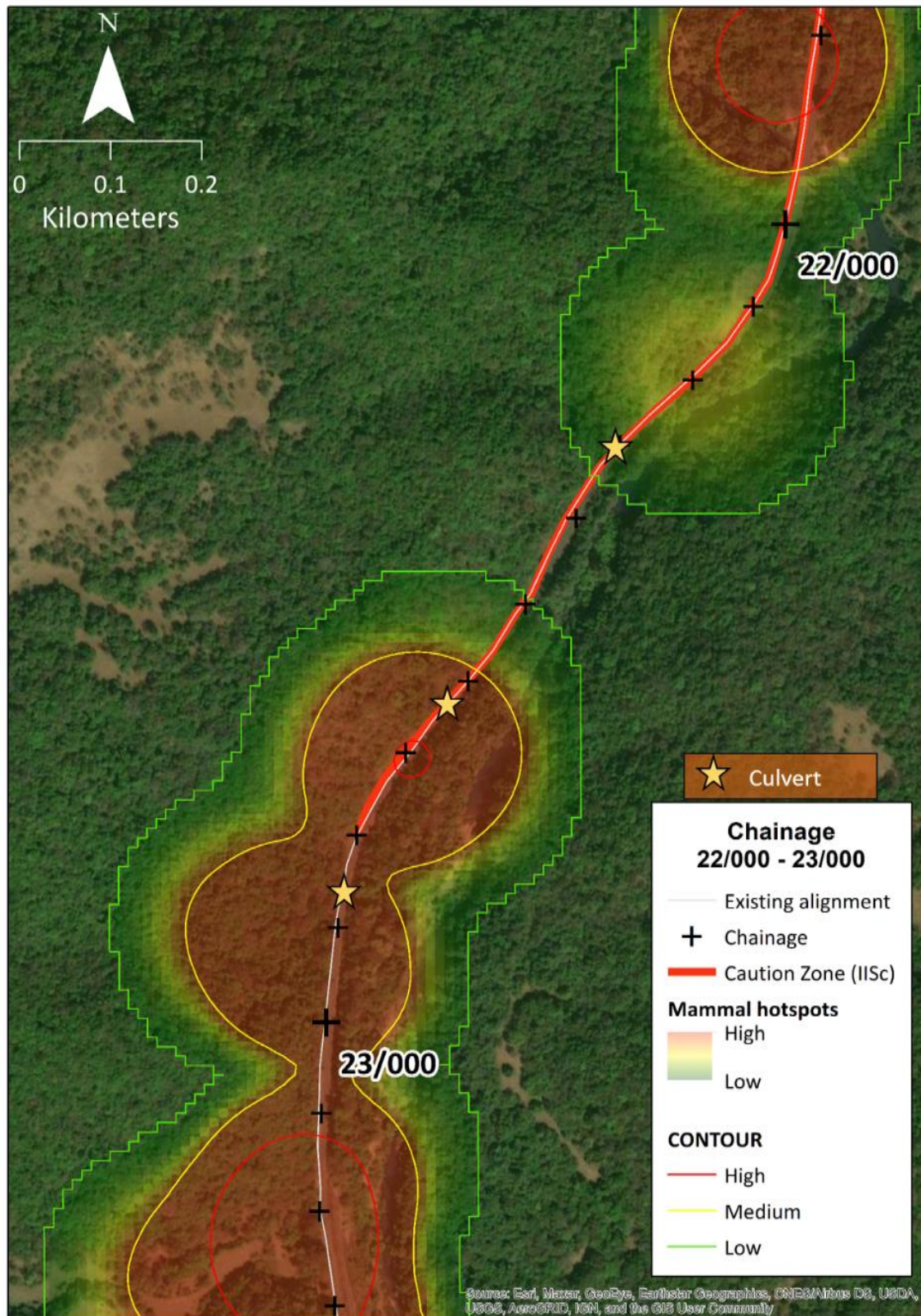
Considering the above factors, the details of mitigation measures proposed for this chainage are given in Table 22 and shown in Figure 38. Increase in dimensions for all three structures is recommended to make the structures more suitable for use by animals. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures.

**Table 22:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 22/000 – 23/000.

| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                      | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                      | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                      |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure type                       | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                               | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 22/301   | RCC box                              | 1 x 1.52 x 3.72                      | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.52 x 3.72                      | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 5                            |
| 2.     | 22/630   | RCC pipe for culvert                 | 1 x 1 x 0.9                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 0.9 x 1.5                        | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 3 x 2                            |
| 3.     | 22/860   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.42 x 2.13                      | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.42 x 2.13                      | RCC box                                                          | 3 x 3 x 3                            |







**Figure 38:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 22/000 – 23/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).



### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 23/000 – 24/000

This segment is characterised by good forest cover along the track between chainage 23/000 and 23/600, followed by a road level crossing at 23/650. The railway yard begins after about chainage 23/800, where multiple railway tracks, with the distance between the vegetation on both sides varying between 40 – 60 m. Suresh et al. (2020) have reported the area between chainage 23/600 – 24/000 to be a 'caution' zone.

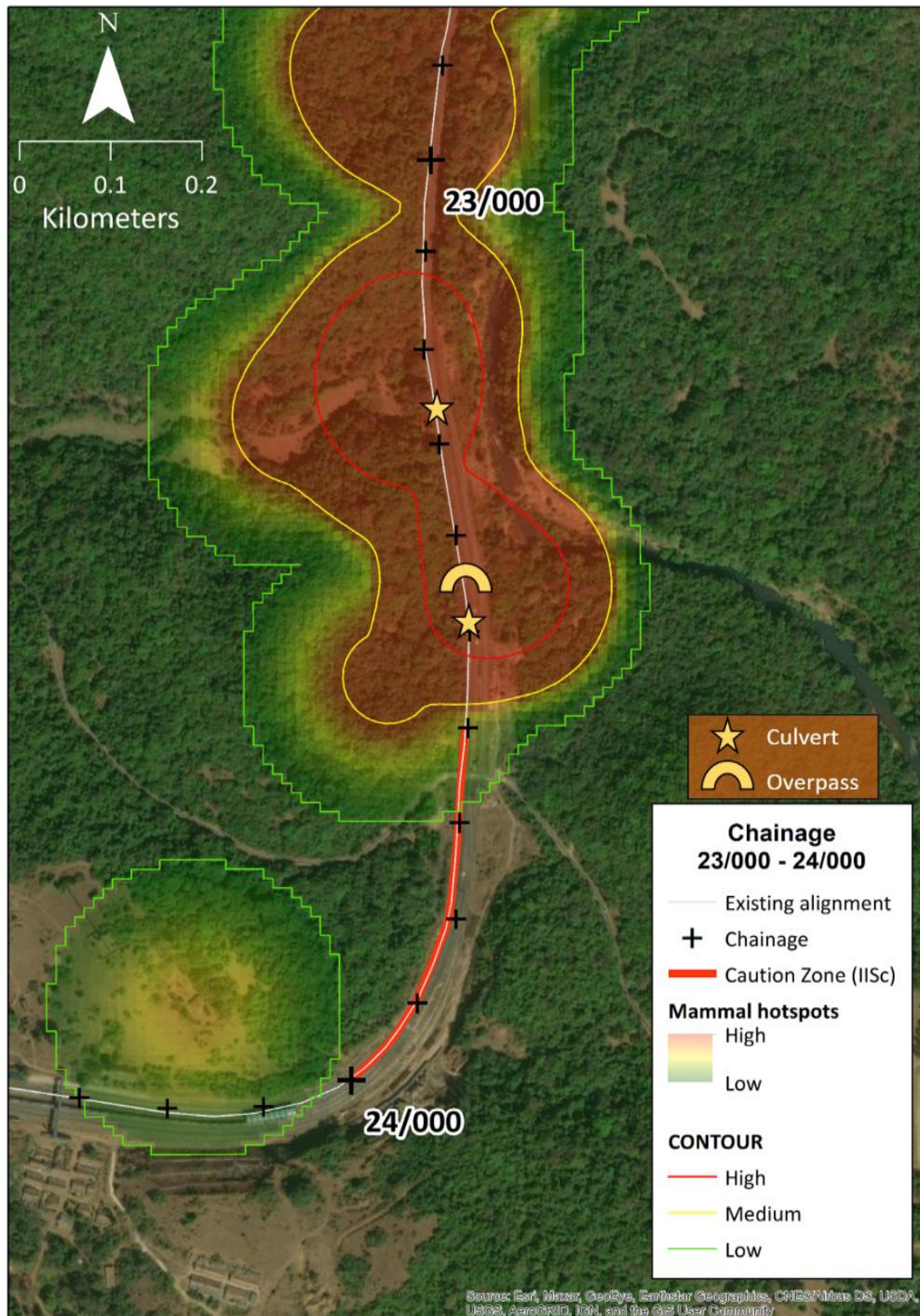
Camera trapping in this segment revealed the presence of langur, porcupine and sambar. Multiple signs of gaur, sambar and porcupine were encountered near this segment. Here a perennial stream exists at the chainage 23/495. We recorded breeding population of amphibian species such as *Indosylvirana* cf. *caeseri*, *Clinotarsus curtipes*, *Euphlyctis* cf. *cyanophlyctis* etc. Among the arboreal reptiles we recorded *Trimeresurus malabaricus*, *Calotes* sp., *Ahaetulla borealis* etc. in this section.

Increase in dimensions for structures 1 and 2 is recommended to make the structures more suitable for use by animals. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures.

An overpass is recommended at chainage 23/450 (approximately; centre point of the structure may be taken as 15° 23.930' N, 74° 20.293' E). The width of the overpass should be 20 m. The details of mitigation measures proposed for this chainage are given in Table 23 and shown in Figure 39.

**Table 23:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 23/000 – 24/000.

| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                      | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                      | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                      |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure type                       | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                               | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 23/279   | RCC slab                             | 1 x 4 x 7                            | RCC slab                                     | 2 x 4 x 7                            | RCC slab                                                         | 3 x 5 x 7                            |
| 2.     | 23/495   | RCC pipe for culvert                 | 1 x 3 x 1.2                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 4.7 x 1.5                        | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 2.5                          |
| 3.     | 23/450   | NIL                                  |                                      | NIL                                          |                                      | Overpass with light and sound barrier                            | 20 (width)                           |



**Figure 39:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 23/000 – 24/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).



### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 24/000 – 25/000

This segment mostly passes through the Castlerock railway station.

Not many animal evidences were found in this stretch, except for a rail kill record of a wild pig (near chainage 24/100) in June 2019.

There is human habitation on both sides of the track on the entire stretch of this segment. Therefore, the RCC slab structure at chainage 24/887 may be retained as such, with provision of ledge in the inner wall of the structure for small mammals. the details of mitigation measures proposed for this chainage are given in Table 24 and shown in Figure 40.

**Table 24:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 24/000 – 25/000.

| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                      | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                      | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                      |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure type                       | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                               | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m) (No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 24/887   | RCC slab                             | 1 x 2.4 x 2.2                        | RCC slab                                     | 1 x 2.4 x 2.2                        | RCC slab                                                         | 1 x 2.4 x 2.2                        |



**Figure 40:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 24/000 – 25/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).

## Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 25/000 – 26/000

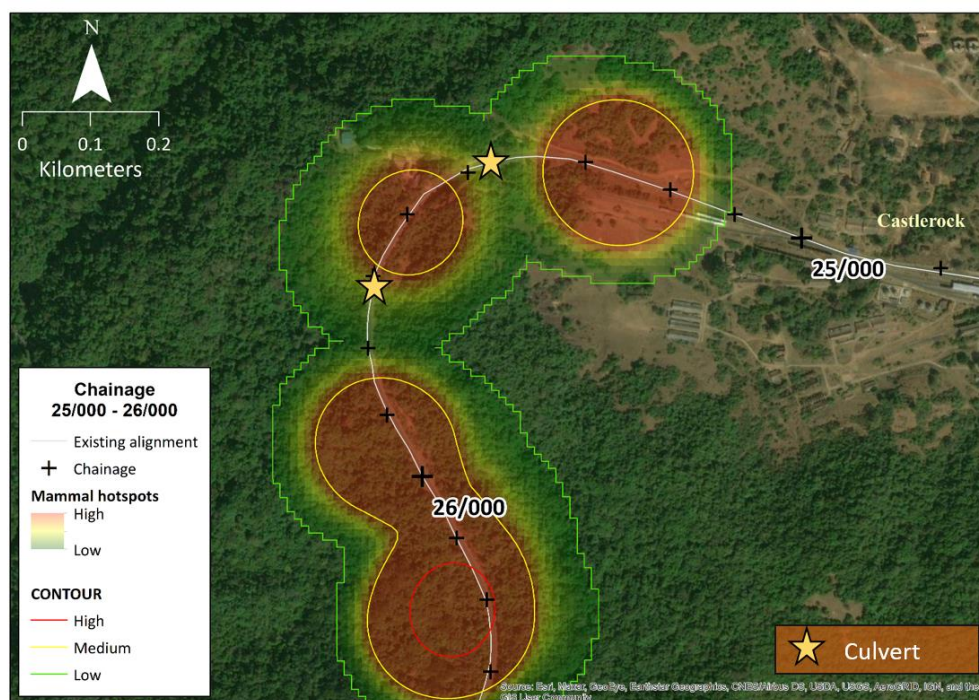
This segment falls on a major curve just after the Castlerock railway station towards Caranzol. There is forest cover on both sides of the track after chainage 25/400. The terrain is undulating on both sides, after the end of the railway parking yard.

Camera trapping on this segment revealed presence of mouse deer and wild dog. We also recorded direct sighting of wild dogs and sambar near the Castlerock Forest Department campus. Two instances of tigers crossing the railway track in this segment were captured by camera traps deployed by the forest department in September 2020. Amphibian species such as endemic *Nyctibatrachus petraeus*, *Raorchestes bombayensis*, critically endangered *Pseudophilautus amboli* etc. were recorded during the survey. A perennial stream is present at the chainage 25/450 where we recorded turtle species (*Melonchelys trijuga*) as well as 13 other species of herpetofauna. The details of mitigation measures proposed for this chainage are given in Table 25 and shown in Figure 41.

Increase in dimensions for both structures is recommended to make the structures more suitable for use by animals. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures.

**Table 25:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 25/000 – 26/000.

| S. No. | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                      |                                         | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                |                                         | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                         |
|--------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|        | Chainage                             | Structure type       | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Chainage                                     | Structure type | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 25/450                               | RCC box              | 1 x 2 x 2.97                            | 25/455                                       | RCC box        | 2 x 3.0 x 3.0                           | RCC box                                                          | 3 x 5 x 4                               |
| 2.     | 25/710                               | RCC pipe for culvert | 1 x 1 x 0.61                            | 25/708                                       | RCC box        | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 4                               |



**Figure 41:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 25/000 – 26/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).



### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 26/000 – 27/000

This segment of the railway track is slightly curvy, and passes through undulating terrain, with steep downward slopes on one or both sides at different points. Sukumar and Sitharam (2017) have identified two important animal crossing points in this section.

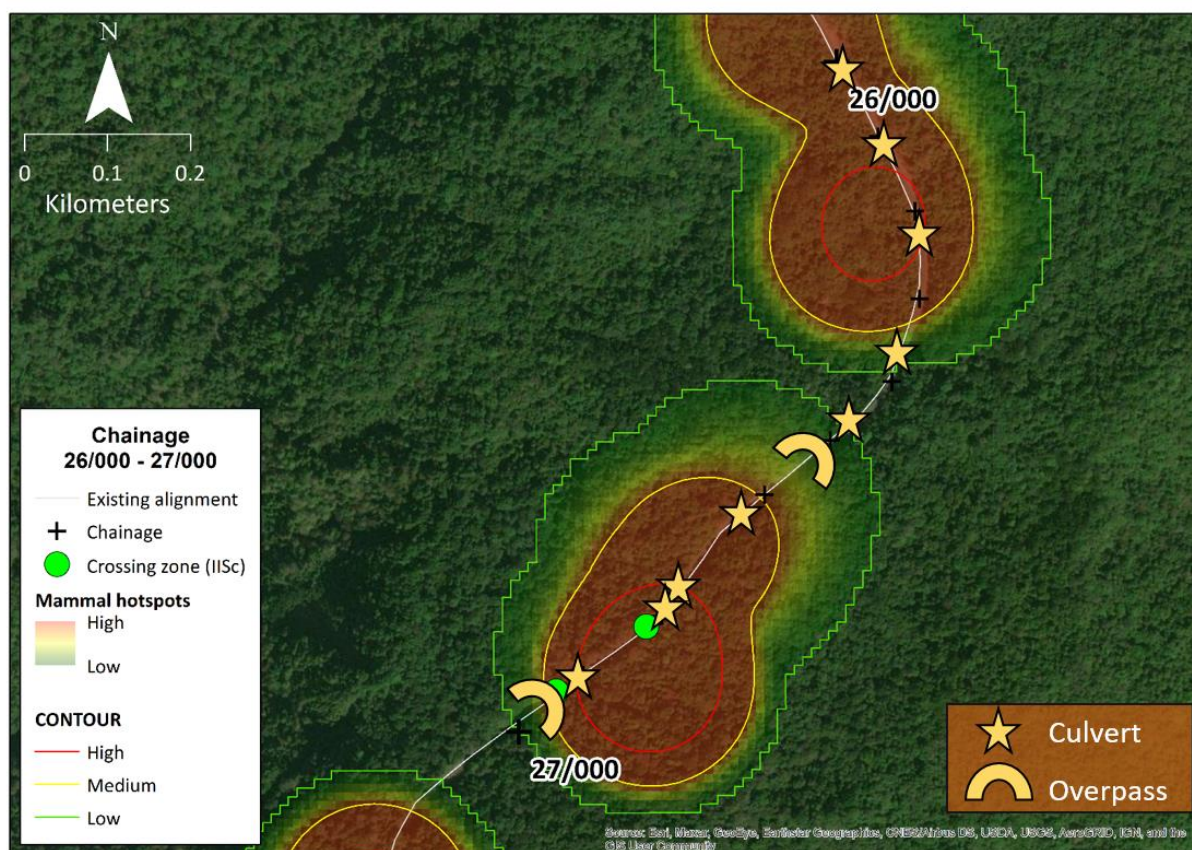
Camera trapping in this segment revealed the presence of brown palm civet, leopard, leopard cat, side-striped mongoose, mouse deer, porcupine, small Indian civet and wild dog. Multiple mammal signs viz., porcupine, wild pig and barking deer were recorded during the survey. Two gaur rail kill were reported in this section- near chainage 26/000 in March 2020, and near chainage 26/850 in May 2020. In this section commonly recorded reptile species were *Cnemaspis* sp., *Hemidactylus prashadi* and *Ahaetulla borealis*. We have also recorded Cat snake (*Boiga* sp.), Hump-nosed Pit Viper (*Hypnale hypnale*), Malabar Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus malabaricus*) here along with evidences of rail killed amphibians such as *Hydrophylax malabaricus*, *Indosylvirana* sp..

Increase in dimensions of all eight structures proposed in this segment is recommended to make the structures more suitable for use by animals. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures. For structure 8, there is no scope to increase the dimensions of the proposed structure.

Two overpasses (measuring 20 m and 15 m wide) have been recommended on this stretch, as the topography is suitable for construction of overpasses with adequate height above the railway line. The details of mitigation measures proposed for this chainage are given in Table 26 and shown in Figure 42.

**Table 26:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 26/000 – 27/000.

| S. No. | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                |                                         | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                |                                         | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                         |
|--------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|        | Chainage                             | Structure type | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Chainage                                     | Structure type | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 26/015                               | RCC box        | 1 x 1 x 2.54                            | 26/005                                       | RCC box        | 1 x 3 x 3                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 6 x 5                               |
| 2.     | 26/110                               | RCC pipe       | 1 x 1 x 1.22                            | 26/100                                       | RCC box        | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 2.4 x 1.5                           |
| 3.     | 26/220                               | RCC slab       | 1 x 1 x 1.98                            | 26/212                                       | RCC box        | 2 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 3 x 1.2                             |
| 4.     | 26/380                               | RCC slab       | 1 x 2 x 1.22                            | 26/378                                       | RCC box        | 2 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 2.5 x 1.2                           |
| 5.     | 26/482                               | RCC box        | 1 x 1 x 2.44                            | 26/480                                       | RCC box        | 1 x 3 x 3                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 5                               |
| 6.     | 26/535                               | NIL            |                                         | NIL                                          |                |                                         | Overpass with light & sound barrier                              | 20 (width)                              |
| 7.     | 26/634                               | RCC slab       | 1 x 1 x 3.05                            | 26/635                                       | RCC box        | 1 x 3 x 2                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 3 x 3                               |
| 8.     | 26/733                               | RCC pipe       | 1 x 1 x 0.61                            | 26/732                                       | RCC box        | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           |
| 9.     | 26/790                               | RCC box        | 1 x 1 x 2.44                            | 26/787                                       | RCC box        | 1 x 3 x 2                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 6 x 3                               |
| 10.    | 26/903                               | Arch           | 1 x 1 x 2.45                            | 26/902                                       | RCC box        | 1 x 3 x 4                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 4                               |
| 11.    | 26/960                               | NIL            |                                         | NIL                                          |                |                                         | Overpass with light and sound barrier                            | 15 (width)                              |



**Figure 42:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 26/000 – 27/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).

### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 27/000 – 28/000

This is a curvy segment of the railway track and is highly undulating on both sides. The first tunnel on this section from Castlerock starts at chainage 27/150.

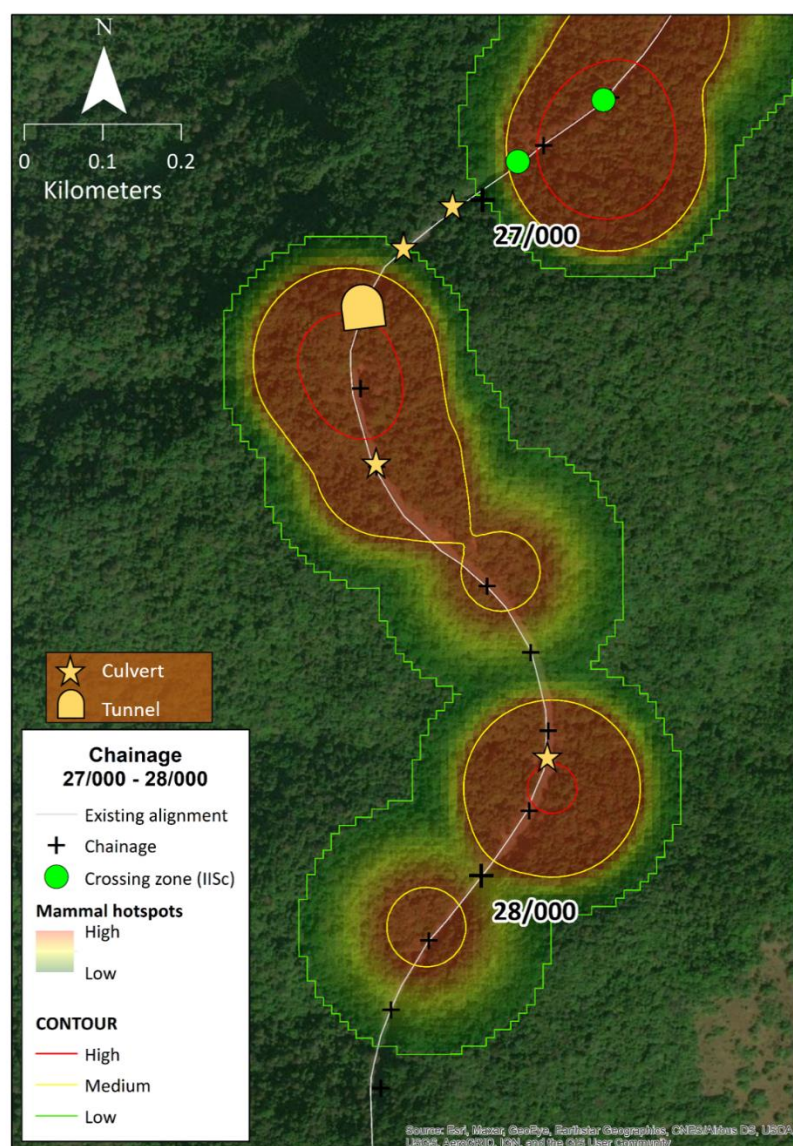
Camera trapping in this segment revealed the presence of barking deer, bonnet macaque, gaur, leopard, mouse deer, porcupine, sambar and small Indian civet. We also found indirect leopard and sambar signs. Several seasonal streams are located in this section which are important for amphibians during the breeding season.

Increase in dimensions for structures 1, 3 and 4 is recommended to make the structures more suitable for use by animals. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures. The girder bridge at 27/150 (entrance to tunnel 1) is to be retained as such. The tunnel on the existing track (27/180 – 27/275) measures 95 m. A tunnel on the proposed track is to be constructed at 27/150 – 27/335 measuring 185 m. The details of mitigation measures proposed for this chainage are given in Table 27 and shown in Figure 43.



**Table 27:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 27/000 – 28/000.

| S. No. | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                  |                                         | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                  |                                         | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                         |
|--------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|        | Chainage                             | Structure type   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Chainage                                     | Structure type   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 27/032                               | RCC slab         | 1 x 1 x 3.05                            | 27/033                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 2                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 3                               |
| 2.     | 27/150                               | Composite girder | 1 x 12.29 + 1 x 18.29                   | 27/130                                       | Composite Girder | 1 x 18.3 + 1 x 12.2                     | Composite Girder                                                 | 1 x 18.3 + 1 x 12.2                     |
| 3.     | 27/400                               | RCC pipe culvert | 1 x 1 x 1.2                             | 27/373                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 2 x 1.8                             | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 4 x 2                               |
| 4.     | 27/836                               | RCC pipe culvert | 1 x 4 x 1.22                            | 27/813                                       | RCC box          | 2 x 3 x 2                               | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 5                               |
| 5.     | 27/180 – 27/275                      | Tunnel           | 95                                      | 27/150 – 27/335                              | Tunnel           | 185                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 185                                     |



**Figure 43:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 27/000 – 28/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track (NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).

### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 28/000 – 29/000

Most of this section is within the Tunnel 2 (chainage 28/300 – 28/710) measuring 410 m. Tunnel 3 (chainage 28/925 – 29/100) also begins in this segment. The terrain on both sides of the segment is highly undulating. We found indirect signs of sambar, and a few herpetofauna on this segment during the survey. A large perennial stream exists at the chainage 28/908. In this section, we have recorded eleven herpetofaunal species of which *Indirana* cf. *chiravasi*, *Micrixalus* cf. *uttarghati*, *Nyctibatrachus* *petraeus* were frequently encountered along the streams.

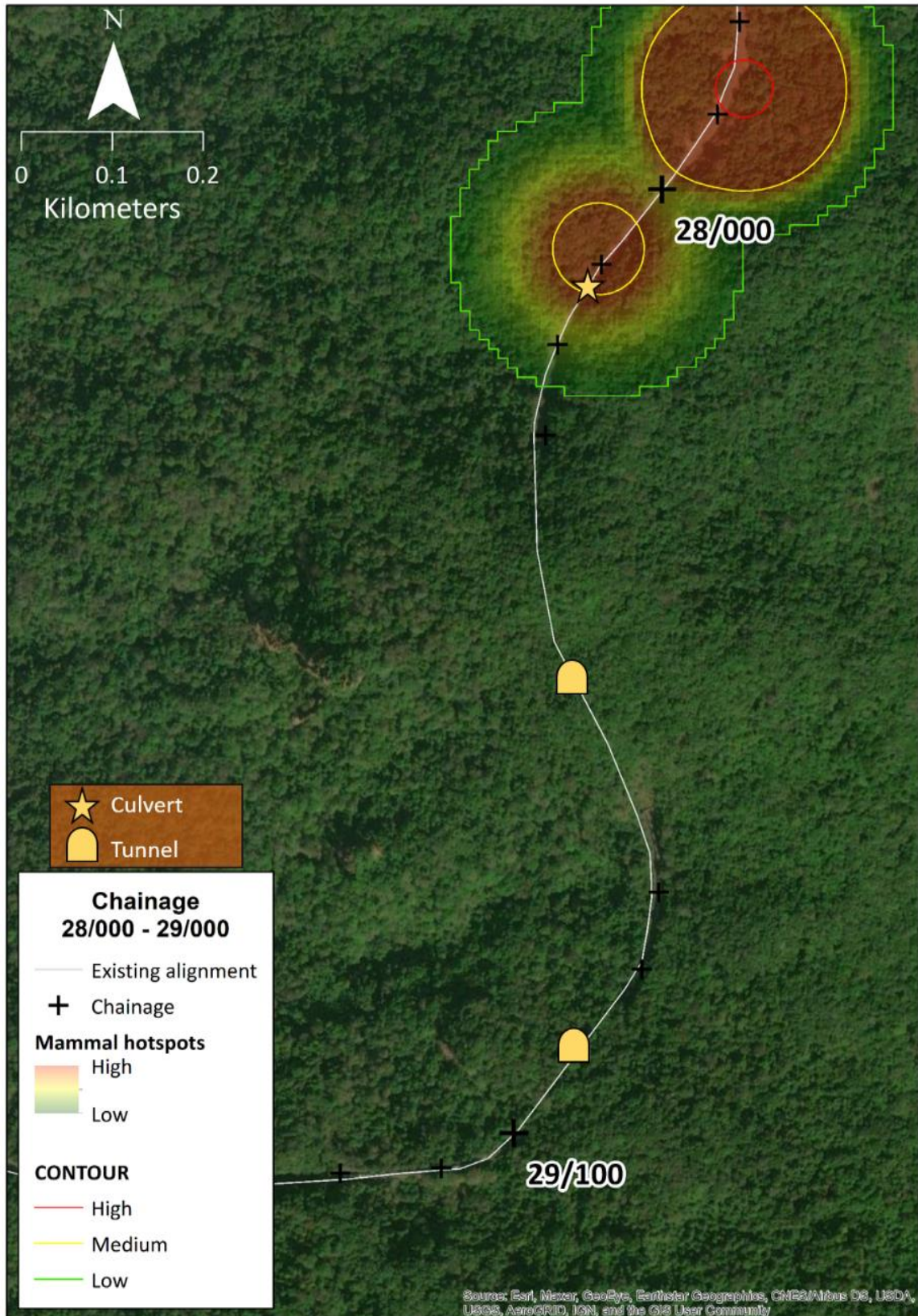
Increase in dimensions for structure 1 is recommended to make the structure more suitable for use by animals. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures. The other structures on this segment (structures 2, 3 and 4) are not proposed on the proposed railway track since this alignment falls inside the proposed tunnel.

Tunnel on proposed railway line (28/160 – 28/750) measures 590 m. Another proposed tunnel, parallel to Tunnel 3 (28/900 – 29/100) measures 200 m. The details of mitigation measures proposed for this chainage are given in Table 28 and shown in Figure 44.

**Table 28:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 28/000 – 29/000

| S. No. | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                |                                         | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                |                                         | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                         |
|--------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|        | Chainage                             | Structure type | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Chainage                                     | Structure type | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 28/122                               | RCC slab       | 1 x 1 x 2.21                            | 28/100                                       | RCC box        | 1 x 3 x 4                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 5                               |
| 2.     | 28/300                               | RCC slab       | 1 x 1 x 0.91                            | Alignment in tunnel                          |                |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 3.     | 28/765                               | Arch           | 1 x 1 x 2.59                            |                                              |                |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 4.     | 28/908                               | RCC box        | 1 x 2 x 3.05                            |                                              |                |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 5.     | 28/300 – 28/710                      | Tunnel         | 410                                     | 28/160 – 28/750                              | Tunnel         | 590                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 590                                     |
| 6.     | 28/925 – 29/100                      | Tunnel         | 175                                     | 28/900 – 29/100                              | Tunnel         | 200                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 200                                     |





**Figure 44:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 28/000 – 29/000 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).

### Proposed mitigation measure from chainage 29/000 – 29/900

The segment begins inside Tunnel 3 (28/925 – 29/100) and ends at the mouth of Tunnel 4 (29/940 – 30/078) which is the end of the Karnataka section of the railway line. The topography in this segment is highly undulating. A large perennial stream exists at the chainage 29/680. Numerous seasonal streams are located in this section. An area with rich herpetofaunal diversity. We have recorded reptile species such as *Ptyas mucosa*, *Trimeresurus malabaricus*, *Ahaetulla borealis*. Amphibian species such as *Indirana cf chiravasi*, *Micrixalus cf. uttarghati* were also being commonly encountered. We have recorded rail kill of amphibian species (*Raorchestes* sp.) in this section.

Increase in dimensions for structures 1 and 2 is recommended to make the structures more suitable for use by animals. Ledges are to be provided within all crossing structures (design in Figure 48).

An overpass of 20 m width is recommended at 29/345 as the topography at this site is suitable for the same. The girder bridge at 29/613 may be retained in its proposed dimensions. Four tunnels are proposed on the new track (Table 29; Figure 45), the remaining tracts of this segment are open. The existing tunnel (mentioned in the previous section) ends at the beginning of this segment.

**Table 29:** Details of types and dimensions of structures of the Existing Railway Track, Proposed Railway Track and Modification of proposed structure as mitigation measure for chainage 29/000 – 29/900.

| S. No. | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                |                                         | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                  |                                         | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                         |
|--------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|        | Chainage                             | Structure type | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Chainage                                     | Structure type   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) | Structure type                                                   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x width x height) |
| 1.     | 29/110                               | RCC box        | 1 x 1 x 0.91                            | 29/104                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 3                               |
| 2.     | 29/177                               | RCC Arch       | 1 x 1 x 2.4                             | 29/177                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 3                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 4 x 5                               |
| 3.     | 29/345                               | NIL            |                                         | NIL                                          |                  |                                         | Overpass                                                         | 20 (width)                              |
| 4.     | 29/433                               | RCC slab       | 1 x 1 x 2.47                            | Alignment in tunnel                          |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 5.     | 29/513                               | RCC slab       | 1 x 1 x 3.05                            |                                              |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 6.     | 29/613                               | RCC girder     | 4 x 18.29                               | 29/613                                       | Composite girder | 2 x 18.3                                | Composite girder                                                 | 2 x 18.3                                |
| 7.     | 29/818                               | RCC pipe       | 1 x 2 x 1.22                            | Alignment in tunnel                          |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 8.     | Nil                                  | Nil            | Nil                                     | 29/275 – 29/550                              | Tunnel           | 275                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 275                                     |
| 9.     | Nil                                  | Nil            | Nil                                     | 29/680 – 29/830                              | Tunnel           | 150                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 150                                     |
| 10.    | Nil                                  | Nil            | Nil                                     | 29/925 – 30/135                              | Tunnel           | 210                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 210                                     |

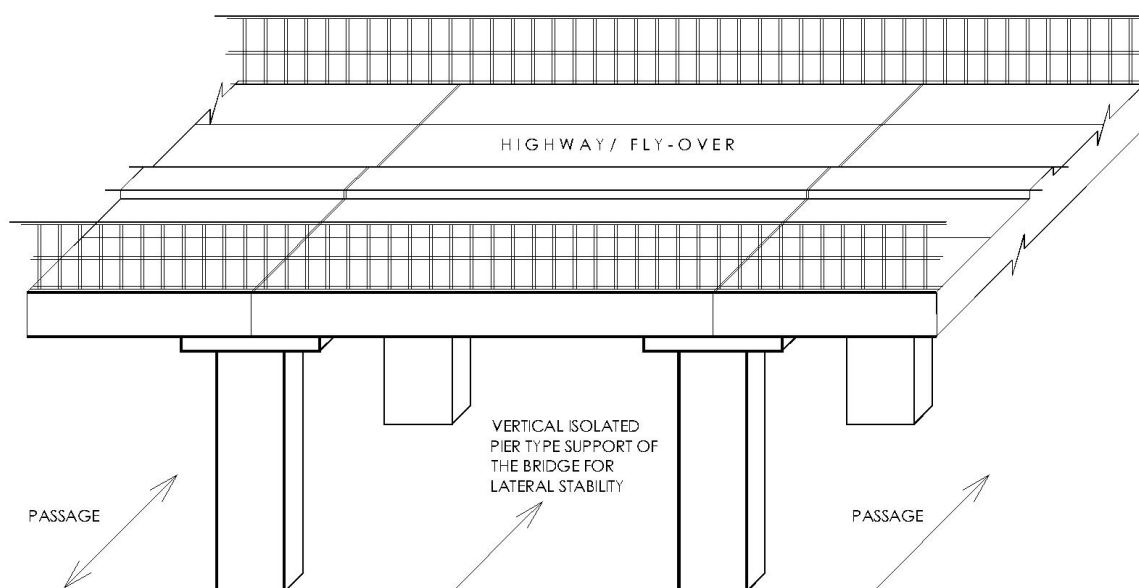




**Figure 45:** Locations of mitigation measures on chainage 29/000 – 29/900 to be constructed on existing and proposed railway track  
(NOTE: locations are approximated to the nearest chainage).

## B. General Measures

1. No construction debris is to be dumped in streams and natural drainages. Water from these natural sources should not be used for construction purposes.
2. To discourage arboreal animals from accessing the electric poles (to be constructed for electrification purposes), all electric poles should be within the fence along the railway line.
3. The divisions between a set of two or more box culverts and underpasses are to be of pillar-type instead of wall-type (Figure 46).
4. Slope stabilisation should be done by revegetating the slopes with native species, and/or by pitching.
5. Major on-site construction activities may be avoided during monsoon season, that is the breeding period of herpetofauna. This would significantly lower the disturbance to herpetofauna and their habitats.
6. On-site construction activities should include provisions of noise-reduction measures such as noise attenuation barriers and noise-reduction devices to reduce noise from machinery, especially in the zones identified as priority zones for faunal presence.



**Figure 46:** Pillar-type divisions are to be used for culverts instead of wall-type divisions  
(Source: WII, 2016)

## **SPECIFIC MEASURES**

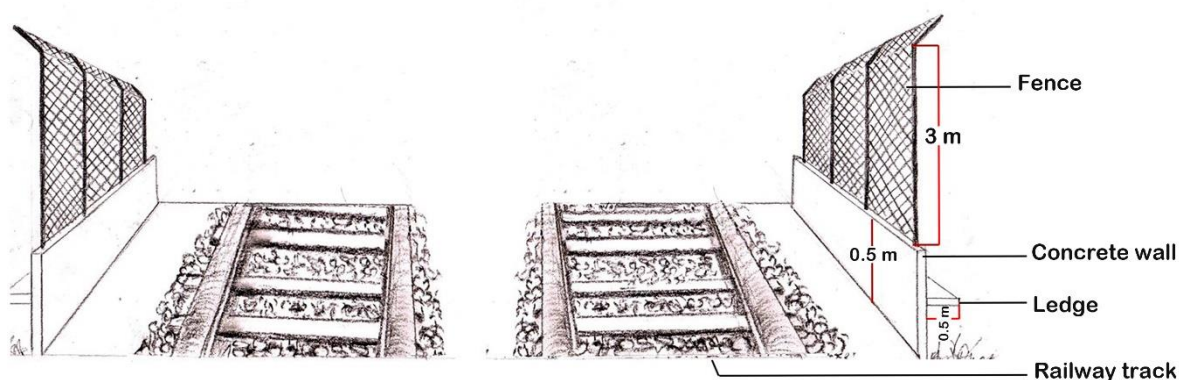
### **C. Fencing**

Fences are generally provided along linear infrastructure such as roads and railway lines to prevent animal mortality by passing vehicles or trains. Fences are best used in combination with properly located wildlife crossing structures to allow animal movement, and cattle guards, and animal detection and warning systems to prevent instances of animals getting trapped between parallel fences.

Fencing is to be installed along the entire stretch of the railway line, except for downward or upward slope of more than 80 degrees on either side. This fencing is to be provided at an appropriate distance from the outer edges of the parallel railway tracks on both sides. A concrete base of 50 cm is to be constructed on which the chain-link fencing should be installed. The height of the fencing should be a minimum of 3 m height on all open sections. In places where the height of the retaining wall is less than 1 m, a fence of minimum height 2 m is to be added on top of the retaining wall.

Wherever side drainages are present along the railway track, the drain boundary on the outer edge is to be provided with a ledge/outward-turned lip measuring at least 50 cm in order to repel amphibians and reptiles from getting on to the railway track. The same type of ledge should be provided on the entire stretch of the concrete base. All aspects of fencing design are depicted in Figure 47.



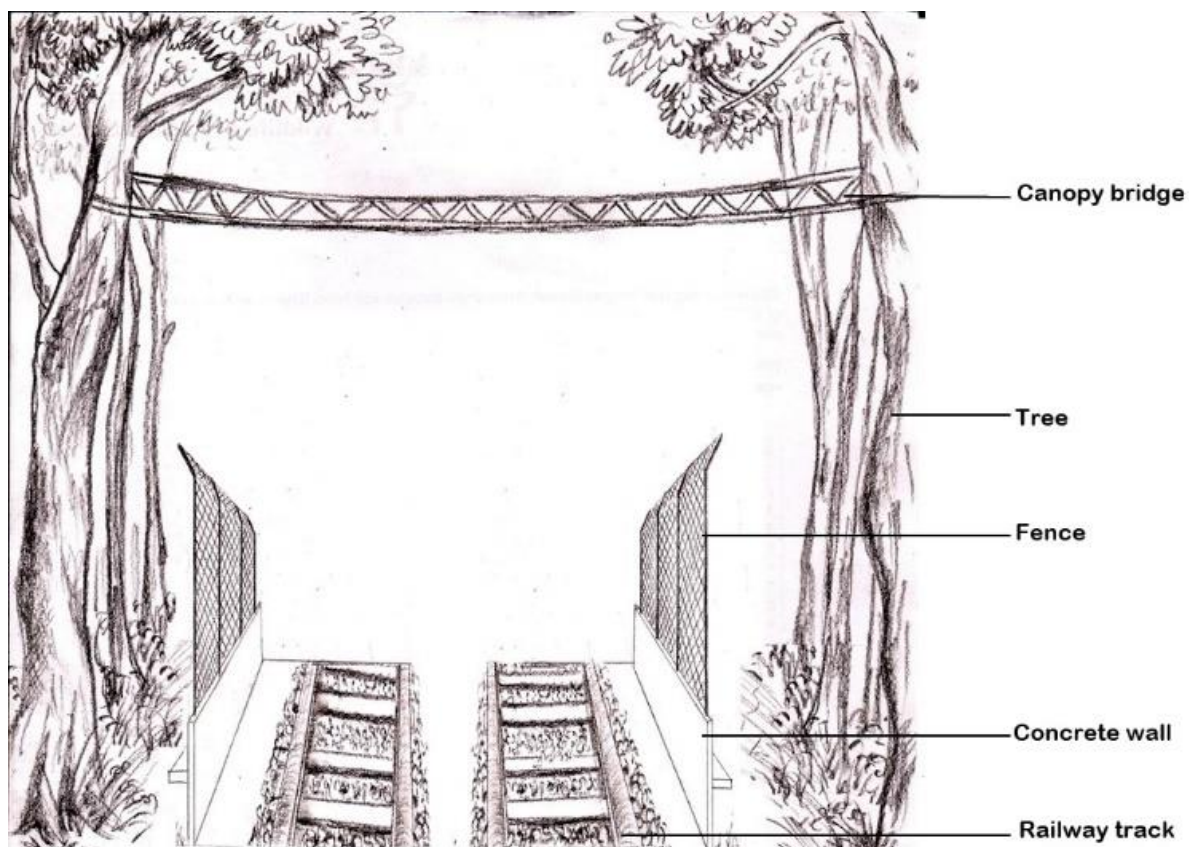


**Figure 47:** Fencing design for the doubled railway track alignment: The top of the fence should face outwards. A concrete base of 0.5 m height is to be provided above which chain-link fencing (3 m high) should be installed.

#### **D. Canopy bridges**

A canopy bridge is a rope, pole or wooden ladder or walkway suspended above a road or railway line, either from vertical poles or trees, and installed for tree-dwelling (arboreal) wildlife species such as primates (langur, macaques), squirrels and civets (WII, 2016). Given correct placement and use of appropriate building material, these structures enable movement of such species across the linear infrastructure, and mitigate the loss of canopy connectivity for arboreal species to some extent. These structures should be tightly stretched (not lagging) and wide enough (about 1m wide) for animals to walk on.

Canopy bridges for arboreal animals is to be provided at regular intervals of 1 km all along the railway track (except at places near railway stations, road crossings, overbridges, tunnels, stretches near tunnels where the gap between parallel tracks may be more than 15 m). A net/mesh like material is to be provided under the canopy bridge to prevent animals falling into the railway track. The design of the canopy bridges is provided in Figure 48.



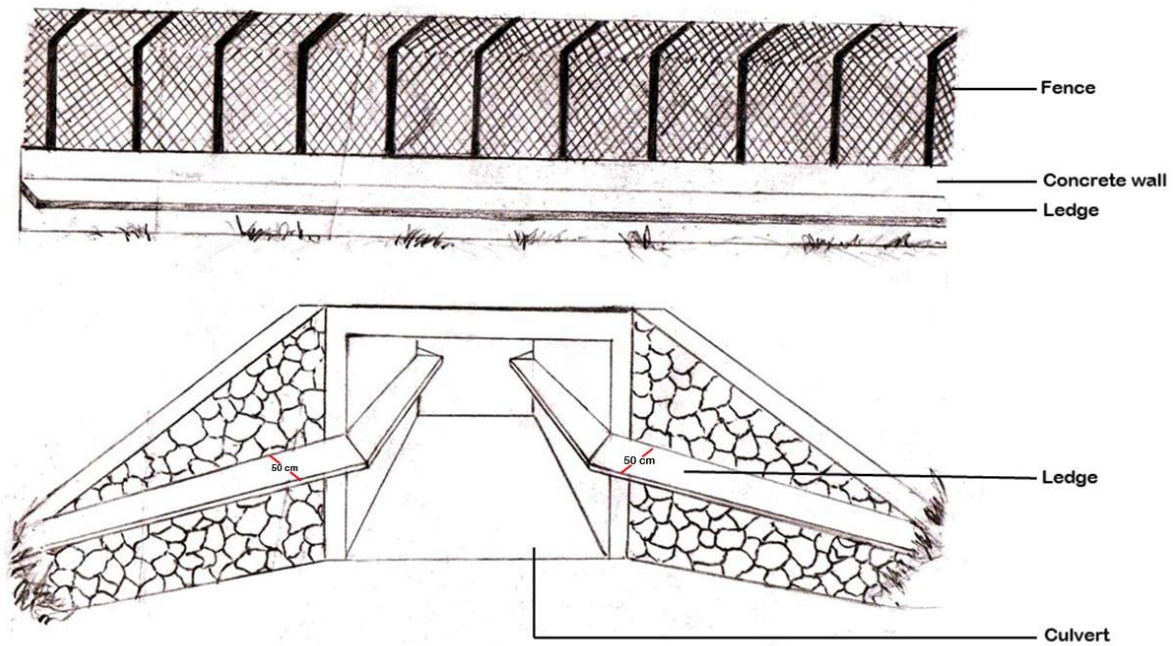
**Figure 48:** Canopy bridge design to be built across the doubled railway track for arboreal mammals.

## E. Ledges

Additional features on crossing structures such as walkways or planks/ledges/shelves are installed on the interior walls of underpasses/crossing and/or drainage structures, to encourage mammals to use culverts built on natural drainage sites (WII, 2016). These structures help animals use the structures in seasons when the culverts may be inundated with water.

Ledges/shelves along the inner walls of all crossing and drainage structures are to be constructed for use by small mammals. These structures should extend up to the exit of the structures and brought to ground level. Fencing above all below-grade crossing and drainage structures is to continue with the railway track (Figure 49).





**Figure 49:** A. Ledges or shelves measuring 50 m wide are to be installed in all crossing and drainage structures. The ends of the shelves should be brought to ground level and fencing along the railway track should continue above all below-grade structures.

## F. Overpasses

A wildlife overpass is a bridge, typically 30 – 70 m wide that extends above roads and railway lines to facilitate natural animal movement across the linear infrastructure. Such structures are built on natural substrate material, and enhanced with habitat features such as native vegetation, rocks and logs. Such structures allow for natural movement of wildlife as they are less confining as compared to culverts and underpasses, quieter, have ambient natural conditions of rainfall, light and temperature, and can be used by a wide range of wildlife (WII, 2016).

In locations with suitable topography i.e., appropriate height (above 7 m) on either side, overpasses are proposed. These are to be constructed using prefabricated materials that would be installed on-site. The overburden from construction sites may be used as filling material. The lateral view and top view of the proposed overpass is provided in Figure 50 (a, b and c). Either side of the top of the overpasses are to be fenced with light and sound barriers. The substrate of the overpass is to be revegetated with native flora. The slope of the approach of the overpass should not be more than 30 degrees at any point.

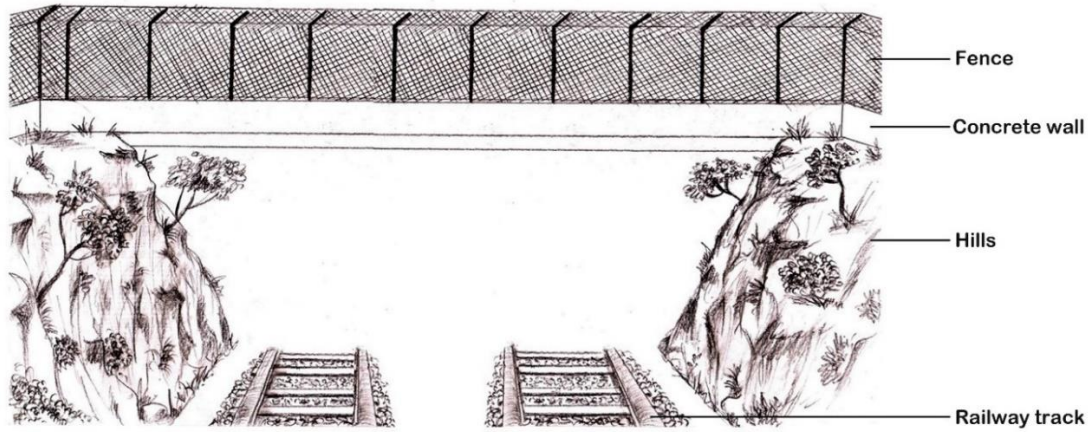


Figure 50 (a): Lateral view of overpass and adjoining features

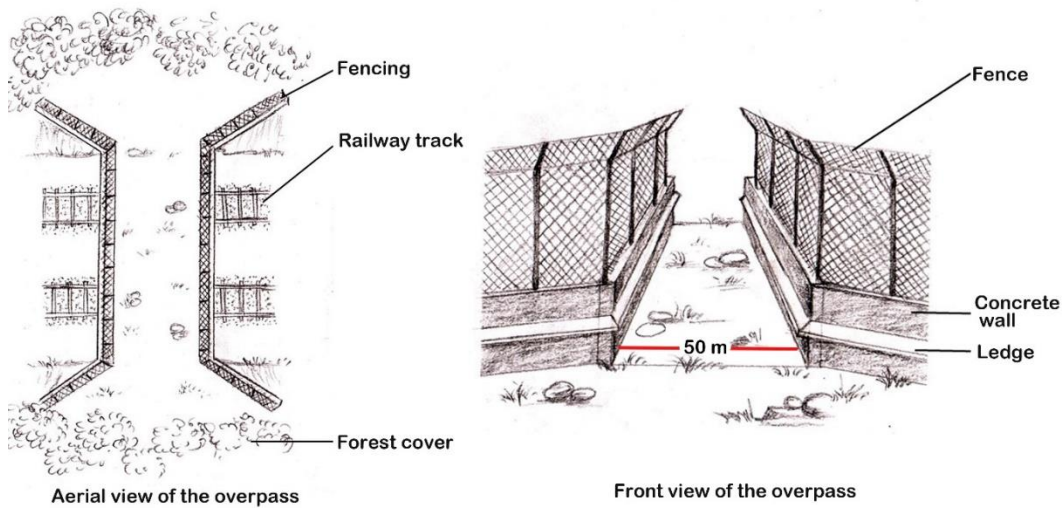


Figure 50 (b): Aerial and frontal view of the overpass.



Figure 50 (c): Overpass representations (<https://arc-solutions.org/new-materials/>)



### G. Level crossings with early warning system

Level-crossings for animals, in combination with fencing, cattle guards and animal warning systems would allow for free and safe movement of wild animals across the railway track. These sites have been selected based on high probability of animal movement and suitable terrain.

The width of the level crossings is to be 50 m. There should be no ballast between the tracks on these crossings, and the ground should be levelled with surrounding area using cement. The track near the end of the fence (at beginning and end of the crossing) should have cattle guards of minimum 3 m width, to discourage animals from entering the fenced portions of the track. The design of level crossings for animals is provided in Figure 51. Early warning systems should be installed at these sites at appropriate locations. These devices must function to emit sounds to dispel any animals present at the site after getting triggered by an approaching train that is within 1 km of level crossing. Cattle guards are to be provided at all places where fencing ends viz., road level crossing.

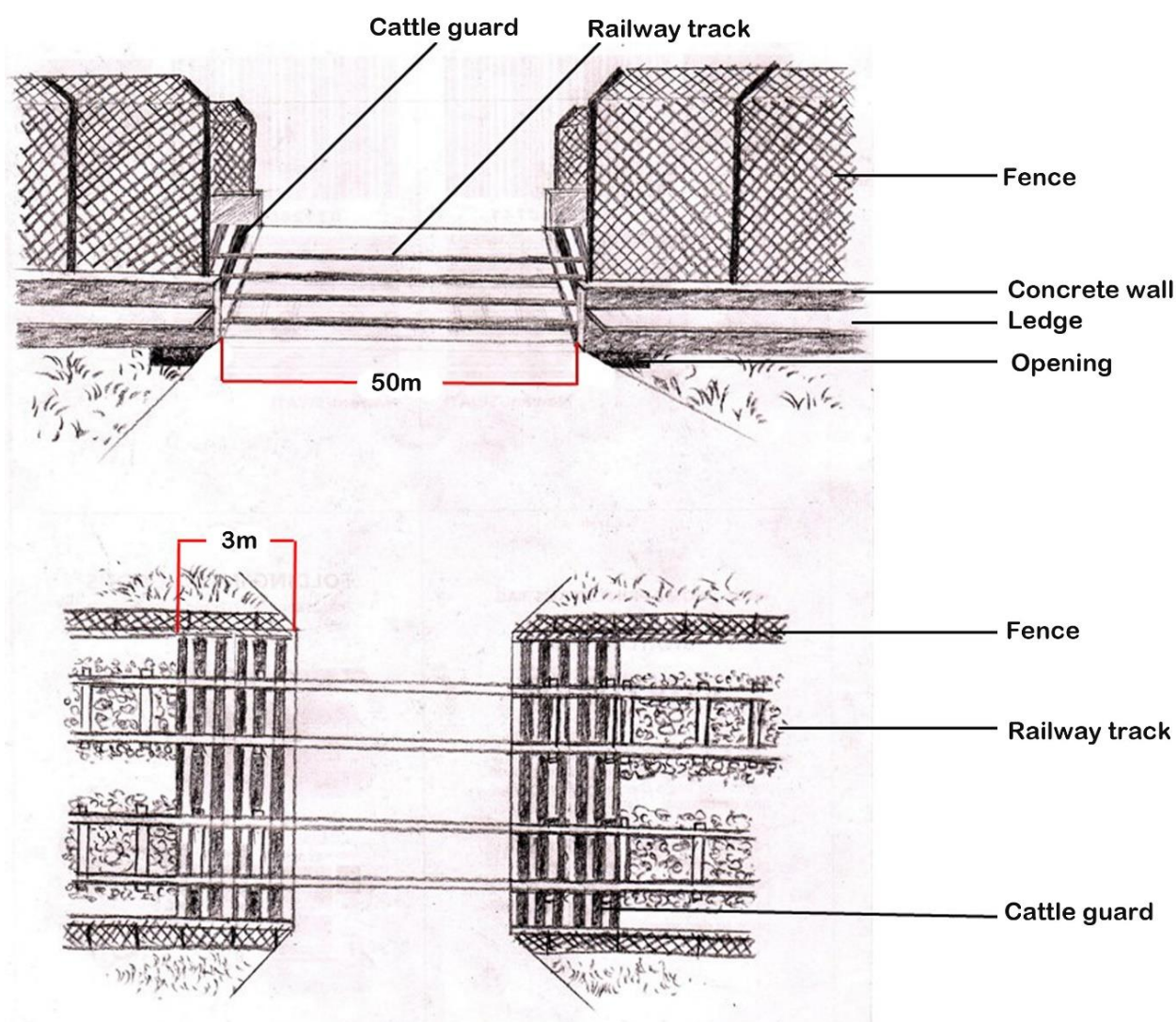


Figure 51: Layout of level crossings for animals.

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## ANNEXURE I

### Species Checklist (Present Study v/s. Sukumar & Sitharam, 2017 Report)

| Sl. No. | Class    | Family           | Species Name                              | Present Study | Sukumar & Sitharam, 2017 |
|---------|----------|------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1.      | AMPHIBIA | Bufonidae        | <i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i>         | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 2.      |          |                  | <i>Pedostibes tuberculosus</i>            | x             | ✓                        |
| 3.      |          | Microhylidae     | <i>Microhyla ornata</i>                   | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 4.      |          |                  | <i>Microhyla rubra</i>                    | x             | ✓                        |
| 5.      |          |                  | <i>Uperodon mormorata</i>                 | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 6.      |          | Ranixalidae      | <i>Uperodon taprobanicus</i>              | x             | ✓                        |
| 7.      |          |                  | <i>Indirana cf. salelkari</i>             | ✓             | x                        |
| 8.      |          |                  | <i>Indirana cf. chiravasi</i>             | ✓             | x                        |
| 9.      |          | Ranidae          | <i>Indirana semipalmata</i>               | x             | ✓                        |
| 10.     |          |                  | <i>Indosylvirana cf. caeseri</i>          | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 11.     |          |                  | <i>Hydrophylax malabaricus</i>            | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 12.     |          | Dicroglossidae   | <i>Clinotarsus curtipes</i>               | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 13.     |          |                  | <i>Minervarya caperata</i>                | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 14.     |          |                  | <i>Minervarya sahyadris</i>               | ✓             | x                        |
| 15.     |          | Rhacophoridae    | <i>Minervarya cf. kudremukhensis</i>      | ✓             | x                        |
| 16.     |          |                  | <i>Minervarya rufescens</i>               | x             | ✓                        |
| 17.     |          |                  | <i>Fejervarya sp.</i>                     | ✓             | x                        |
| 18.     |          | Nyctibatrachidae | <i>Sphaerotherca breviceps</i>            | x             | ✓                        |
| 19.     |          |                  | <i>Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis</i>           | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 20.     |          |                  | <i>Euphlyctis aloysii</i>                 | x             | ✓                        |
| 21.     |          | Micrixalidae     | <i>Hoplobatrachus tigerinus</i>           | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 22.     |          |                  | <i>Polypedates maculatus</i>              | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 23.     |          |                  | <i>Raorchestes bombayensis</i>            | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 24.     |          | Indotyphlidae    | <i>Raorchetes sp.</i>                     | ✓             | x                        |
| 25.     |          |                  | <i>Pseudophilautus amboli</i>             | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 26.     |          |                  | <i>Rhacophorus malabaricus</i>            | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 27.     |          | Ichthyophidae    | <i>Nyctibatrachus petraeus</i>            | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 28.     |          |                  | <i>Micrixalus cf. uttarghati</i>          | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 29.     |          |                  | <i>Gaganeophis sp.</i>                    | ✓             | x                        |
| 30.     |          | Agamidae         | <i>Ichthyophis sp.</i>                    | ✓             | x                        |
| 31.     |          |                  | <i>Calotes versicolor</i>                 | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 32.     |          |                  | <i>Monilesaurus rouxii</i>                | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 33.     | REPTILIA | Gekkonidae       | <i>Hemidactylus prashadi</i>              | ✓             |                          |
| 34.     |          |                  | <i>Hemidactylus sp. (brookii complex)</i> | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 35.     |          |                  | <i>Hemidactylus cf. triedrus</i>          | ✓             | x                        |
| 36.     |          | Scincidae        | <i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>              | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 37.     |          |                  | <i>Cnemaspis cf. goaensis</i>             | ✓             | x                        |
| 38.     |          |                  | <i>Eutropis carinata</i>                  | ✓             | x                        |
| 39.     |          | Varanidae        | <i>Eutropis cf. macularia</i>             | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 40.     |          |                  | <i>Varanus bengalensis</i>                | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 41.     |          |                  | <i>Hebius beddomei</i>                    | ✓             | x                        |
| 42.     |          | Colubridae       | <i>Fowlea piscator</i>                    | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 43.     |          |                  | <i>Ptyas mucosa</i>                       | ✓             | ✓                        |
| 44.     |          |                  | <i>Ahaetulla pulverulenta</i>             |               | ✓                        |
| 45.     |          | Rhabdops sp.     | <i>Ahaetulla borealis</i>                 | ✓             | --                       |
| 46.     |          |                  | <i>Boiga sp.</i>                          | ✓             | x                        |
| 47.     |          |                  | <i>Boiga beddomei</i>                     | x             | ✓                        |
| 48.     |          |                  | <i>Rhabdops sp.</i>                       | ✓             | x                        |

|     |             |                                 |   |   |
|-----|-------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 49. |             | <i>Lycodon aulicus</i>          | ✓ | ✓ |
| 50. |             | <i>Lycodon travancoricus</i>    | ✓ | ✓ |
| 51. |             | <i>Oligodon arnensis</i>        | x | ✓ |
| 52. |             | <i>Oligodon taeniolatus</i>     | ✓ | ✓ |
| 53. |             | <i>Dendrelaphis cf. girii</i>   | ✓ | x |
| 54. |             | <i>Dendrelaphis tristis</i>     | x | ✓ |
| 55. |             | <i>Rhabdops plumbicolor</i>     | x | ✓ |
| 56. | Viperidae   | <i>Hypnale hypnale</i>          | ✓ | ✓ |
| 57. |             | <i>Trimeresurus malabaricus</i> | ✓ | ✓ |
| 58. |             | <i>Trimeresurus gramineus</i>   | x | ✓ |
| 59. |             | <i>Vipera russelli</i>          | x | ✓ |
| 60. | Elapidae    | <i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>       | ✓ | ✓ |
| 61. |             | <i>Naja naja</i>                | x | ✓ |
| 62. | Uropeltidae | <i>Uropeltis ellioti</i>        | x | ✓ |
| 63. | Pythonidae  | <i>Python molurus</i>           | x | ✓ |
| 64. | Geomydidae  | <i>Melanochelys trijuga</i>     | ✓ | x |

## Annexure II

### Herpetofaunal Mortality Recorded During Survey

| Species Name                      | Individuals | Lat      | Long     | Remarks                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------------------|
| <i>Ahaetulla borealis</i>         | 1           | 15.40641 | 74.33825 | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Indosylvirana</i> sp.          | 1           | 15.40677 | 74.33827 | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Hydrophylax malabaricus</i>    | 1           | 15.39716 | 74.32301 | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Indosylvirana</i> sp.          | 1           | 15.42328 | 74.36108 | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Indosylvirana</i> sp.          | 1           | 15.4294  | 74.38409 | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Ahaetulla borealis</i>         | 1           | 15.39654 | 74.32338 | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Hebius beddomei</i>            | 1           | 15.44307 | 74.38257 | Roadkill; 2 Meter away from railway track |
| <i>Raorchestes</i> sp             | 1           | 15.37247 | 74.31535 | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Fowlea piscator</i>            | 1           | 15.4413  | 74.38674 | 10 meters away from railway track         |
| <i>Indosylvirana</i> sp.          | 1           | 15.38948 | 74.31938 | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Indosylvirana</i> sp.          | 1           | 15.40655 | 74.33827 | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Hoplobatrachus tigerinus</i>   | 1           | 15.41384 | 74.3423  | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Dendrelaphis</i> sp            | 1           | 15.43017 | 74.38373 | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i> | 1           | 15.43898 | 74.38281 | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Ahaetulla borealis</i>         | 1           | 15.43982 | 74.38264 | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Lycodon travancoricus</i>      | 1           | 15.37149 | 74.30664 | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>         | 1           | 15.37149 | 74.30664 | Railkill                                  |
| <i>Ichthyophis</i> sp.            | 1           | 15.37209 | 74.30706 | Railkill                                  |



### ANNEXURE III

Mitigation measures recommended on the existing and proposed railway tracks in the Tinaighat to Castlerock segment (Chainage 12/000 to 25/000)

| S. No. | Chainage | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                                         | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                                         | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                         |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|        |          | Structure Type                       | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x Width x Height) | Structure Type                               | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x Width x Height) | Structure Type                                                   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x Width x Height) |
| 1.     | 12/233   | Arch culvert                         | 1 x 1.52 x 4.25                         | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.52 x 4.25                         | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 4.5                             |
| 2.     | 12/350   | Pipe culvert                         | 1 x 2 x 0.8                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2 x 2                               | RCC Box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 2                               |
| 3.     | 12/702   | Pipe culvert                         | 1 x 2 x 0.3                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.55 x 1.80                         | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 1.55 x 1.80                         |
| 4.     | 12/795   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Level crossing                                                   | 30-35 (width)                           |
| 5.     | 12/812   | RCC slab                             | 1x 2 x 1.46                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3.760 x 1.5                         | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 3.760 x 1.5                         |
| 6.     | 13/118   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.55 x 2.55                         | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.55 x 2.55                         | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 2.55 x 2.55                         |
| 7.     | 13/597   | RCC box                              | 2 x 1.25 x 1.5                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3.05 x 1.8                          | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 2                               |
| 8.     | 13/772   | RCC pipe                             | 1 x 1 x 1.2                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.2 x 1.5                           | RCC box                                                          | 3 x 5 x 2.5                             |
| 9.     | 13/993   | RCC box                              | 1 x 1.02 x 0.625                        | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3 x 1.8                             | RCC box                                                          | 4 x 5 x 2                               |
| 10.    | 14/230   | RCC pipe                             | 1x 2 x 1.22                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3 x 1.8                             | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 5                               |
| 11.    | 14/295   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.55 x 2.3                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.55 x 2.3                          | Underpass                                                        | 1 x 20 x 4.5                            |
| 12.    | 14/550   | RCC box                              | 1 x 3.08 x 1.55                         | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3.08 x 1.8                          | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 3.08 x 1.8                          |
| 13.    | 14/650   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Level crossing with early warning system                         | 50 (width)                              |
| 14.    | 15/213   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.35 x 2.65                         | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.35 x 2.65                         | RCC box                                                          | 4 x 5 x 3                               |
| 15.    | 15/552   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.45 x 2.0                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.45 x 2.0                          | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 4.5                             |
| 16.    | 15/962   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.4 x 1.85                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.4 x 1.85                          | RCC box                                                          | 3 x 5 x 4.5                             |
| 17.    | 16/188   | Pipe culvert                         | 1 x 2 x 1.25                            | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.92 x 1.8                          | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 2.5                             |
| 18.    | 16/688   | RCC box                              | 1 x 1.83 x 2.88                         | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.83 x 2.88                         | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 3                               |
| 19.    | 17/074   | RCC pipe                             | 1 x 1.2                                 | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.2 x 1.8                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 2                               |
| 20.    | 17/280   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Underpass                                                        | 2 x 5 x 3                               |
| 21.    | 17/950   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Underpass                                                        | 1 x 50 x 5.5                            |
| 22.    | 18/251   | RCC box                              | 2 x 3.34 x 3.6                          | RCC box                                      | 2 x 3.34 x 3.6                          | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 3.34 x 3.6                          |
| 23.    | 18/800   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Level crossing with early warning system                         | 50 (width)                              |
| 24.    | 19/060   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Level crossing with early warning system                         | 50 (width)                              |
| 25.    | 19/292   | RCC pipe for culvert                 | 1 X 2 x 1.2                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 3 x 1.8                             | RCC box                                                          | 4 x 5 x 3.5                             |
| 26.    | 19/520   | RCC box                              | 1 x 2.35 x 2.5                          | RCC box                                      | 1 x 2.35 x 2.5                          | RCC box                                                          | 5 x 5 x 3.5                             |
| 27.    | 19/850   | NIL                                  |                                         | NIL                                          |                                         | Level crossing with early warning system                         | 50 (width)                              |
| 28.    | 20/190   | RCC pipe culvert                     | 1 X 1 x 1.2                             | RCC box                                      | 1 x 1.2 x 1.8                           | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 2 x 2                               |

|     |        |                      |                 |          |                 |                                          |               |
|-----|--------|----------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 29. | 20/350 |                      | NIL             |          | NIL             | Level crossing with early warning system | 50 (width)    |
| 30. | 21/002 | RCC box              | 2 x 2.6 x 3.65  | RCC box  | 1 x 5.5 x 3.65  | RCC box                                  | 3 x 5 x 5     |
| 31. | 21/381 | RCC pipe for culvert | 1 x 1 x 1.2     | RCC box  | 1 x 1.2 x 1.8   | RCC box                                  | 1 x 4 x 2     |
| 32. | 21/655 | RCC pipe for culvert | 1 x 1.2 x 2.85  | RCC box  | 1 x 1.2 x 2.85  | RCC box                                  | 2 x 4 x 4     |
| 33. | 21/978 | Arch                 | 1 x 5 x 12.2    | PSC Slab | 1 x 5 x 12.2    | PSC Slab                                 | 1 x 5 x 12.2  |
| 34. | 22/301 | RCC box              | 1 x 1.52 x 3.72 | RCC box  | 1 x 1.52 x 3.72 | RCC box                                  | 1 x 5 x 5     |
| 35. | 22/630 | RCC pipe for culvert | 1 x 1 x 0.9     | RCC box  | 1 x 0.9 x 1.5   | RCC box                                  | 2 x 3 x 2     |
| 36. | 22/860 | RCC box              | 1 x 2.42 x 2.13 | RCC box  | 1 x 2.42 x 2.13 | RCC box                                  | 3 x 3 x 3     |
| 37. | 23/279 | RCC slab             | 1 x 4 x 7       | RCC slab | 2 x 4 x 7       | RCC slab                                 | 3 x 5 x 7     |
| 38. | 23/495 | RCC pipe culvert     | 1 x 3 x 1.2     | RCC box  | 1 x 4.7 x 1.5   | RCC box                                  | 2 x 5 x 2.5   |
| 39. | 23/450 |                      | NIL             |          | NIL             | Overpass with light and sound barrier    | 20 (width)    |
| 40. | 24/887 | RCC slab             | 1 x 2.4 x 2.2   | RCC slab | 1 x 2.4 x 2.2   | RCC slab                                 | 1 x 2.4 x 2.2 |



Mitigation measures recommended on the existing and proposed railway tracks in the Castlerock-Caranzol segment (Chainage 25/000 to 29/900)

| S. No. | Structures on Existing Railway Track |                  |                                         | Structures planned on Proposed Railway Track |                  |                                         | Modification of proposed structure to act as mitigation measures |                                         |
|--------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|        | Chainage                             | Structure Type   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x Width x Height) | Chainage                                     | Structure Type   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x Width x Height) | Structure Type                                                   | Dimension (m)<br>(No. x Width x Height) |
| 1.     | 25/450                               | RCC box          | 1 x 2 x 2.97                            | 25/455                                       | RCC box          | 2 x 3.0 x 3.0                           | RCC box                                                          | 3 x 5 x 4                               |
| 2.     | 25/710                               | RCC pipe culvert | 1 x 1 x 0.61                            | 25/708                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 4                               |
| 3.     | 26/015                               | RCC box          | 1 x 1 x 2.54                            | 26/005                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 3                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 6 x 5                               |
| 4.     | 26/110                               | RCC pipe         | 1 x 1 x 1.22                            | 26/100                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 2.4 x 1.5                           |
| 5.     | 26/220                               | RCC slab         | 1 x 1 x 1.98                            | 26/212                                       | RCC box          | 2 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 3 x 1.2                             |
| 6.     | 26/380                               | RCC slab         | 1 x 2 x 1.22                            | 26/378                                       | RCC box          | 2 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 2.5 x 1.2                           |
| 7.     | 26/482                               | RCC box          | 1 x 1 x 2.44                            | 26/480                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 3                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 5                               |
| 8.     | 26/535                               | NIL              |                                         |                                              | NIL              |                                         | Overpass                                                         | 20 (width)                              |
| 9.     | 26/634                               | RCC slab         | 1 x 1 x 3.05                            | 26/635                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 2                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 3 x 3                               |
| 10.    | 26/733                               | RCC pipe         | 1 x 1 x 0.61                            | 26/732                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           |
| 11.    | 26/790                               | RCC box          | 1 x 1 x 2.44                            | 26/787                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 2                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 6 x 3                               |
| 12.    | 26/903                               | Arch             | 1 x 1 x 2.45                            | 26/902                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 4                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 4                               |
| 13.    | 26/960                               | NIL              |                                         |                                              | NIL              |                                         | Overpass                                                         | 15 (width)                              |
| 14.    | 27/032                               | RCC slab         | 1x 1 x 3.05                             | 27/033                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 2                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 3                               |
| 15.    | 27/150                               | Composite girder | 1 x 12.29 + 1 x 18.29                   | 27/130                                       | Composite Girder | 1 x 18.3 + 1 x 12.2                     | Composite Girder                                                 | 1 x 18.3 + 1 x 12.2                     |
| 16.    | 27/400                               | RCC pipe culvert | 1 x 1 x 1.2                             | 27/373                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 2 x 1.8                             | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 4 x 2                               |
| 17.    | 27/836                               | RCC pipe culvert | 1x 4 x 1.22                             | 27/813                                       | RCC box          | 2 x 3 x 2                               | RCC box                                                          | 2 x 5 x 5                               |
| 18.    | 27/180 – 27/275                      | Tunnel           | 95                                      | 27/150 – 27/335                              | Tunnel           | 185                                     |                                                                  |                                         |
| 19.    | 28/122                               | RCC slab         | 1x 1 x 2.21                             | 28/100                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 4                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 5                               |
| 20.    | 28/300                               | RCC slab         | 1 x 1 x 0.91                            | Alignment in tunnel                          |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 21.    | 28/765                               | Arch             | 1 x 1 x 2.59                            |                                              |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 22.    | 28/908                               | RCC box          | 1 x 2 x 3.05                            |                                              |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 23.    | 28/300 – 28/710                      | Tunnel           | 410                                     | 28/160 – 28/750                              | Tunnel           | 590                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 590                                     |
| 24.    | 28/925 – 29/100                      | Tunnel           | 175                                     | 28/900 – 29/100                              | Tunnel           | 200                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 200                                     |
| 25.    | 29/110                               | RCC box          | 1 x 1 x 0.91                            | 29/104                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 1.2 x 1.2                           | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 5 x 3                               |
| 26.    | 29/177                               | RCC Arch         | 1 x 1 x 2.4                             | 29/177                                       | RCC box          | 1 x 3 x 3                               | RCC box                                                          | 1 x 4 x 5                               |
| 27.    | 29/345                               | NIL              |                                         |                                              | NIL              |                                         | Overpass                                                         | 20 (width)                              |
| 28.    | 29/433                               | RCC slab         | 1 x 1 x 2.47                            | Alignment in tunnel                          |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 29.    | 29/513                               | RCC slab         | 1 x 1 x 3.05                            |                                              |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 30.    | 29/613                               | RCC girder       | 4 x 18.29                               | 29/613                                       | Composite girder | 2 x 18.3                                | Composite girder                                                 | 2 x 18.3                                |
| 31.    | 29/818                               | RCC pipe         | 1 x 2 x 1.22                            | Alignment in tunnel                          |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 32.    | NII                                  | Nil              | Nil                                     |                                              |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 33.    | NII                                  | Nil              | Nil                                     |                                              |                  |                                         |                                                                  |                                         |
| 34.    | NII                                  | Nil              | Nil                                     | 29/275 – 29/550                              | Tunnel           | 275                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 275                                     |
|        |                                      |                  |                                         | 29/680 – 29/830                              | Tunnel           | 150                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 150                                     |
|        |                                      |                  |                                         | 29/925 – 30/135                              | Tunnel           | 210                                     | Tunnel                                                           | 210                                     |



2020



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