

To

18 June, 2024

Kumar Padmapani Bora, IRS
Director of Tourism
Govt of Assam
director-tourism@assam.gov.in

Sub: Apprehension about the proposed five-star hotels in WHS Kaziranga

Sir,

It has come to our notice that three five-star hotels are going to be set up inside the World Heritage Site, Kaziranga National Park. Since Kaziranga National Park is a world heritage and we are associated with matters pertaining to world heritages, we are deeply concerned about the development. While two of the proposed five-star hotels are said to be by the Taj group, it is reported that the Chicago-based Hyatt Hotel Corporation is setting up a five-star hotel at Hathikuli Inglay Pothar, which is a traditional habitat for elephants. Not only that, this area is considered as a 'playground for elephants' by the native people of WHS Kaziranga. There has been widespread apprehension that the proposed hotels would affect the elephant corridor. If that is the case, we would be constrained to take a serious note of the matter.

We therefore seek your clarification regarding above and also whether the due environmental clearance was taken from all concerned bodies. Your reply will help allay our fears that the nature and characteristics of the world heritage site would not be compromised by the proposed construction and activities therein afterwards. While we welcome development, it should not be at the cost of nature. So, we would seek your certified assurance that the proposed activities would not harm the ecology of the world heritage site.

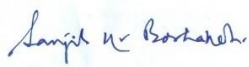
The following links may be seen for reference

<https://m.thewire.in/article/environment/assam-rights-body-asks-why-ngos-are-silent-over-kaziranga-hotel-plan/amp>

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN_GK0T-GK1C&mibextid=Nif5oz&ref=watch_permalink&v=1567622047134089

With expectation for your response

Sincerely yours



Dr Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti
Expert Member, ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Committee
Expert Member, ICOMOS International Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage
Member, Commission on Education and Communication, IUCN- International Union for Conservation of Nature

Copy to

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2. Dr Vasanti Rao, S&SE Asia Regional Vice Chair, IUCN Commission for Education and Communication, pnavasanti@cmsindia.org
3. Dilip Changkakoty, NE zonal representative, ICOMOS, northeastzone.icomosindia@gmail.com