

Details for registration number : PMOPG/E/2025/0175949

Name Of Complainant B N Kumar

Date of Receipt 17/11/2025

Received By Ministry/Department Prime Minister's Office

Grievance Description

Environment, Forest and Climate Change >> Wildlife related >> Critical Wildlife Habitats

Wild Elephant Omkar and Leopards Are Wake-Up Calls for Wildlife Policy Reforms

Hon'ble Prime Minister sir,

This petition began as a plea to stop the panic-driven killing and relocation of leopards in Maharashtra — highlighted by the shocking killing of a leopard in Pune district after it was hastily labelled a “man-eater.” Now, wild elephant Omkar is set to be captured and shifted out of the State, exposing serious gaps in India’s wildlife conflict policy.

The Omkar Crisis

The Bombay High Court (Kolhapur Bench) has allowed Omkar’s temporary capture and transfer to the Vantara Elephant Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre in Gujarat, relying on Forest Department experts. Key facts:

- Omkar, a free-ranging male, became erratic after being separated from his herd.
- Conflict incidents included crop damage and a fatality after locals allegedly burst firecrackers near him.
- Experts recommended capture for safety and medical monitoring.
- Karnataka and Tamil Nadu declined to host him Maharashtra’s facility is years away.
- The State assured the Court Omkar’s stay will be temporary.
- The case returns to Court on 24 November 2025.

The Larger Crisis

Across India, shrinking forests, broken corridors, forest-edge expansion, garbage attracting wildlife, and panic captures are driving conflict. The Pune leopard’s killing and Omkar’s relocation are warning signs of a failing system.

Our Stand

Omkar entered Maharashtra naturally from Karnataka, likely seeking a mate. Sawantwadi villagers oppose his removal NatConnect Foundation supports their call for humane, science-based action.

What We Request

Protect wildlife corridors.

Regulate expansion at forest edges.

Fix waste near forests.

Build State-run rehabilitation centres.

Create trained rapid-response teams.

Support affected communities.

End knee-jerk relocations.

A Final Appeal

Please intervene to protect Omkar and ensure India adopts a science-driven conflict policy before more lives are lost.

NatConnect Foundation

Current Status	Under process
Date of Action	17/11/2025
Officer Concerns To	
Officer Name	Shri Sudheer Chaintalapati (Scientist E)
Organisation name	Wildlife Section
Contact Address	Indira Paryavaran BhavanJor Bagh RoadNew Delhi
Email Address	sudheer.ch@nic.in
Contact Number	01120819214