



IUCN  
Sri Lanka Country Office  
53, Horton Place  
Colombo 07  
Sri Lanka

Tel +94 11 2682488  
Tel +94 11 2682418  
Fax +94 11 2682470  
[iucn.sl@iucn.org](mailto:iucn.sl@iucn.org)  
[www.iucn.org/srilanka](http://www.iucn.org/srilanka)

24<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

Mr. Anura Sathursinghe  
Project Director  
ESCAMP

Dear Anura,

### **IUCN Comments and Observations on designs for Sinharaja Access Road**

I refer to the email sent by your office on the Sinharaja access road on 16 January 2020. Our comments and observations of the proposed design by University of Moratuwa (UOM) are indicated below.

Generally, UOM designs are in line with the mitigation areas proposed by IUCN in our earlier field visit report to the Forest Department and subsequent participation in the discussions. The UoM proposed rubble pitched surface and drain system to remaining road construction seems appropriate. We noted that UOM has conducted a thorough study on the road area prior to the design and the proposed actions has the potential to strengthen the drain and minimize erosion.

However, please consider the following specific comments to further strengthen the designs.

1. Some of the drains are act as barriers for small and slow-moving animals and can be trap for such animals – It is proposed to have escaped points and passes;
2. UoM proposed physical structure to Landslide in 200-250m segment – IUCN proposed not to use large scale physical structure and use natural landscaping based landslide prevention measures after consultation geologists and NBRO; and
3. On the proposed physical barriers in one of natural water falls to reduce water speed during heavy rains, we wish to discourage such barriers that will disturb the natural water movement in the waterfall and in the stream, thereby modifying the ecosystem in the long-term.

Given the need to complete the work before the next monsoon season, IUCN further propose to move forward with UOM designs and introduce a system to observe the access road area carefully for a period to ensure the safety of species and also study the behavior patterns of species in post construction while comparing their movement outside the road area. We trust that these observations would help in future designs and as a students' research (post-construction environment) works.

It has been a pleasure to work with ESCAMP and the Forest Department in this regard and hope our inputs will facilitate the project Environment and Social Management approaches.

Kind regards,

Ananda Mallawatantri, Ph.D.  
Country Representative