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Date:11/09/2010 URL: http://www.thehindu.com/2010/09/11/stories/2010091159980300.htm

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Karnataka - Mysore

## **Expert panel to visit Gundia project site**

Special Correspondent

The hydroelectric project is awaiting final clearance of the MoEF

MYSORE: The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) will visit the Gundia Hydroelectric Project site near Sakleshpur in Hassan district on September 16. The visit of the panel, headed by Madhav Gadgil, gains significance in view of the Environmental Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) waiting for its recommendations to clear the project.

## Other teams

It is to be noted that members of a sub-committee appointed by the EAC for the river valley and hydroelectric projects visited the Gundia project area in December and stressed upon the need for a thorough study of the ecological damage that could be caused because of the implementation of the project.

Another team of six scientists from the Indian Institute of Science conducted a three-day study on the proposed project area from August 29 to 31 at the request of Prof. Gadgil. According to Western Ghats Task Force Chairman Ananth Hegde Ashisara, the WGEEP will meet members of the task force and discuss the Carrying Capacity Study on Uttara Kannada, at Aranya Bhavan and then proceed to the power project site. Speaking to The Hindu, president of the Malenadu Janapara Horata Samiti, H.A. Kishor Kumar, said the National Alliance for People's Movement would hold a dharna in Bangalore on September 14.

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