

**Circular**

**Subject: Wildlife Hazard Management at Airports.**

The rapid spread and deadly effect of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) has had a drastic effect on the airport operations. During lockdown period, airports have seen a significant reduction in operations. With less air traffic and stay-at-home orders, it is also seen a reduction in personnel deployed on the airfields for various duties and functions, including wildlife management.

2. Birds and other wildlife, in general, enjoy the habitat around busy airports. Because airports are placed on the fringe of large urban areas, they frequently have large tracts of unused, undeveloped land surrounding them as safety buffers. That undeveloped land as well as green areas of airports are attractive to numerous bird/wildlife species, particularly as suitable habitat shrinks due to urban expansion. At the same time, the lack of human activity, general bustle of the airport often discourages large predators, giving birds and wildlife a safer sanctuary. Many airports are also near substantial wetlands, or drainage ponds, making these areas even more attractive to thousands of migratory birds including waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and other large birds. Unfortunately, it is these birds that present a higher risk to aircraft. Therefore, given the current environment of reduced aviation activity, birds/wildlife are expected to expand their environment.

3. Many regular activities such as grass cutting, bird activity monitoring patrols, and dispersal measures may be limited given the current situation of reduced man-power and lower aircraft movements at airfields. This may result in an increase of bird/wildlife that forage, feed and rest or even nest within or near aerodromes.

4. DGCA CAR Section 4 Series B Part 1 Para 9.4 requires that aerodrome operator shall take action to decrease the risk to aircraft operations by adopting measures to minimize the likelihood of collisions between wildlife and aircraft.

5. Therefore, Airport operators are advised not to ease bird/wildlife control measures and bird/wildlife monitoring be continued. Particular attention should be given to increase of bird/wildlife activities as a result of reduced air traffic.



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Deputy Director General

To

All Airport Operators in India.