

**Ministry of Environment and Forests  
Wildlife Division**

**Minutes of the 18th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) held on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 in 403, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003.**

The 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL was held on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 in Room No. 403, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment & Forests.

A list of delegates who attended the meeting is at **Annexure-1**.

At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman welcomed all the Members of the Standing Committee for National Board for Wildlife (NBWL). It was followed by discussion on agenda items.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1**

**Confirmation of the minutes:**

Member Secretary informed that the draft minutes of last meeting was circulated to all the Members. However, four members, viz; Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, Dr. B. Talukdar, Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda and Dr. Asad Rahmani have written about discrepancy in recording of the final decision on Poshitra Port in Gujarat, Dholpur lift irrigation Project in Chambal River Sanctuary, Seismic survey in Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary and road construction in Balram Ambaji Sanctuary.

Member Secretary clarified that after detailed discussion including observation made by the above mentioned Members, final decision taken in meeting has only been recorded in circulated draft minutes. He also informed that all these issues were coming for discussions again.

Thereafter, Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL were confirmed unanimously.

## AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

### **2(4.11): Permission to carry out study for Environmental Impact Assessment and risk assessment for establishment of Port at Poshitra Distt. Jamnagar.**

While discussing, the proposal on Poshitra port, it was observed that the Marine National Park was highly rich in Marine Bio diversity and is highly ecologically fragile area. The Standing Committee also took a note of the recommendation of Swaminathan Committee on Development of New Ports. It has recommended no development of any port within 10kms from Ecological fragile area/Protected Areas. Committee also considered the report of the inspecting team of the Standing Committee consisting of Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh and Dr. Asad Rahmani recommending rejection of the proposal for conservation of marine bio-diversity in Marine National Park. Under this background the committee unanimously rejected the proposal to carry out study for EIA for establishment of Port at Poshitra.

### **2(6.8.): Agenda items by Dr. Asad Rahmani:**

#### **(a) Nowapada Swamps**

Member Secretary informed that State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not agreed to declare Nowapada Swamps as Conservation Reserve. The CWLW, Andhra Pradesh informed that, a large number of families were staying in that area and were having their livelihood rights for fishing in these areas. Therefore, it was not possible to declare these areas as Conservation Reserves. The Committee observed that while security of traditional livelihood was necessary, at the same time concerns for conservation of wetlands should also be addressed.

It was unanimously decided that Chairman would write a letter to Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh bringing such concerns to his notice and redressing the same by

the Andhra Government. Dr. Asad Rahmani was requested to give inputs in this regard.

**(c) Kolleru Lake Sanctuary**

Hon'ble MOS (I/C) E&F visited Kolleru Lake Sanctuary on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 and interacted with all the stakeholders in this matter. After detailed discussion it was decided to:

(1)Constitute an expert committee to study the issue in greater detail both from the perspective of the protection of the livelihoods of the local fisherman and farming communities and the conservation and protection of the wetlands of kolleru and recommend to the government on the merits and demerits of the proposal of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly for reduction of the Wildlife Sanctuary from the contour 5 to contour 3.

(2) The committee would tour extensively in the area and interact with all the stakeholders including the public representatives of the area. They would study the issue from a holistic view keeping the interests of both the local people and the environment.

(3) The committee would also look into the matter of paying compensation to the private landowners who are losing their lands in the Wildlife Sanctuary.

(4) The committee would be given three months time to give their final recommendations and based on the recommendation of the committee, the government will take the final decision.

(5) Get a quick scientific survey of the entire area done through satellite mapping to get an actual picture of the status of the lake and the alignment of the contour lines.

**Constitution of Expert committee,**

- Dr. Azeez, Director, SACON, Chairman.
- Prof. K. Kameshwar Rao, Dept of Environmental Studies, Andhra University, Member.
- Mr. Ashok Kumar, IAS (Retd.), working in Environmental Management issues, Member.
- Dr. B.C. Choudhary, Professor, Dept of Wetlands, WII, dehradun, Member.

- Mr. Sanjay Upadhyay, Managing Partner, Enviro Legal Defence Firm, Member.
- Dr VNVK Sastry, Ex-Director, TCR&TI, Hyderabad, Member.
- Shri K Mrutyunjaya Reddy, DG, APSRSAC, Hyderabad, Member.

**(d)Balpakram Complex**

Since inspection report was still awaited in this case, Dr. Asad Rahmani was requested to complete inspection at earliest and submit the report.

**2[5.2(4) Proposal for 2D Seismic Survey for an area of 158 Sq. Kms from Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary, Gujarat**

Considering the importance of Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary for its diversity of birds both Migratory and resident and the fact that large area of sanctuary has been diverted in past, for different developmental activity, the Committee unanimously agreed with the recommendation of site inspection report submitted by Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda, Member, Standing Committee and rejected the proposal for 2D Seismic Survey.

**2[5.2(5) to 5.2(14)] Diversion of Forestland for construction of roads from Jessore Wildlife Sanctuary and Balram Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary.**

The Member Secretary informed that the comments of CWLW, Gujarat on site inspection reports, carried out by Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda, have been received. It has been informed that if proposal of rationalization of boundary of Balram Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary is approved then the proposed road of Makanchampa-Rayania-Varnal will be outside the sanctuary boundary. The proposal for Rationalization of boundaries has already been recommended by the Standing Committee of the NBWL and presently pending with Hon'ble Supreme Court and CEC for final decision. Under this background, the proposal of Construction of road Makanchampa-Rayania-Varnal was deferred by the Standing Committee till the Rationalization of boundaries is finalised.

(ii) Regarding proposal of road construction from Rupvas to Zufali, CWLW has submitted a chronology of different activities, regarding this road. It has been clarified that, in principle approval was given by Government of India in 1994, and final approval on 5.9.2001. The Committee observed that in 2001, approval of Standing Committee of NBWL was not mandatory. Under this background the committee recommended this road.

(iii) With regard to the proposed road from Guda to Karamadi, the Chief Wildlife Warden, in his clarification has accepted that necessary permission under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and permission under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for existing Seebal Pani- Guda road has not been obtained by State Government. Therefore, it has been requested to regularize this road and permit the construction of remaining part i.e from Guda to Karamadi. During discussion, Standing Committee took a serious note of this lapse. However, considering problems of local people and the necessity of link road as pleaded by Principal Secretary (Forests) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat, the Committee recommended the proposal clearly emphasizing that it would not be a precedent in future proposals. All the above mentioned recommended 2 proposals are subject to following conditions:

1. No black topping of the above roads would be done.
2. The road development shall be carried out with utmost care.
3. It shall be ensured that no damage is caused to the Wildlife and Sanctuary.
4. For movement of runoff water and wildlife, minimum of one subway per 3 kms, culvert per every 8 meter for maintaining continuity of water and speed breakers at suitable distance for safety of wildlife shall be provided.
5. All construction material and other material will be brought from outside the sanctuary and no digging for extraction material will be done in the sanctuary.
6. All the conditions laid down by Government of Gujarat, GFD or any agency shall be binding on the user agency.
7. No further works would be approved on the above roads.

**2[5.2(20)] Diversion of 0.3 ha of Forestland from National Chambal Ghariyal Sanctuary Rajasthan, for Dholpur lift irrigation project**

While discussing the proposal of Dholpur lift irrigation project Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh pointed out that, there were many projects coming up on the Chambal River Sanctuary including hydro power projects etc. He also emphasized that on approval of such proposal the species like Ghariyals who need flowing river would not be able to survive. Further, there was urgent need to assess the water availability during lean period.

Considering these facts it was decided that Wildlife Institute of India, Bombay Natural History Society & World Wide Fund- India would carry out a study in this regard in consultation of State Authorities. The study would cover all related aspects of Chambal River basin, impacts of various proposed projects on river flow and its aquatic life and water availability in the river. This Committee would submit its report within 9 months. The present proposal for Dholpur lift as well as four proposals of hydro power projects submitted by Government of Rajasthan would be decided only after studying the findings of above mentioned committee.

**2(3). Technical discussion on Lion translocation**

Member Secretary informed that an affidavit in this regard has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and no action at present was pending.

**4.2(4): Diversion of 7.2871 ha of forestland for construction of Ropeway from Bhavnath Taleti to Ambaji Temple in Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary by Usha Breco Ltd, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

Hon'ble Chairman had suggested to carry out site inspection before a final view is taken by the Committee.

**4.2(5): Proposals for drawing water from Majthal Wildlife Sanctuary and laying of pipeline for carrying this water for the expansion of Cement Plant by M/s Ambuja Cement Pvt. Ltd.**

While discussing the request of M/s. Ambuja Cement Pvt. Ltd for permitting them to extract additional water from water source in Majthai Wildlife Sanctuary, Member Secretary informed that this proposal was rejected by the committee in its last meeting held on 22.12.2009. However, on the request of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh, this proposal has been put up again for reconsideration.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh emphasized the need of extra withdrawal of water by the applicant (M/s Ambuja Cement Pvt. Ltd) to meet the growing demand of drinking water supply to local people as well as for the expansion of capacity of Cement Plant. On this issue, the committee observed that the State Government should undertake such work of drinking water supply to local people themselves and not through a Private Industry.

The Committee also observed that withdrawal of water for commercial purpose was in violation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Further, there has been no material change in the situation. In this background, the committee again rejected the proposal.

**4.10) Diversion of 16.09 ha of forestland from Keladevi Wildlife Sanctuary for Dohari Minor Irrigation Project by Water Resource Department, Distt. Karauli, Rajasthan.**

Member Secretary informed that the site inspection from Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda is still awaited. In the mean while the committee observed that the proposal was also not approved by the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL). Therefore, it was decided to write to the State Chief Wildlife Warden to get the proposal approved from SBWL before it is considered by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.

**4.12) Diversion of forest land falling within Askot Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttarakhand for widening & improvement of Tawaghat- Zypti motor road by Border Roads Organization.**

The Member Secretary informed that this proposal was recommended by the Committee during its last meeting. Further, as per the decision of the Committee during the last meeting, Dr. Asad Rahmani had conducted a field visit and has submitted his report. The report would be forwarded to the State Government of Uttarakhand and Border Roads Organizations for incorporating conservation measures for the Musk Deer as suggested by Dr. Asad Rahmani.

#### **5.1. Agenda items proposed by Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda**

Chief Wildlife Warden, Andaman & Nicobar Islands informed the Standing Committee that necessary action at Narcondam Island has already been taken. No goats are permitted at the Island & Narcondam Hornbills were being provided full protection. It was decided that the Chief Wildlife Warden will reconfirm the position.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO.3.1: Declaration of new Protected Areas.**

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that there were two proposals relating to declaration of new Protected Areas. First amongst them was related to declaration of Kutch Desert National Park in Gujarat. The Member Secretary clarified that a proposal was received from Shri. Parshotam Rupala, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, requesting for declaring Kutch Desert National Park. The Member Secretary also informed that the proposal was forwarded to the Government of Gujarat for taking necessary action as the State Government was empowered to do so.

The Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Gujarat, informed the Committee that the State Government has already declared three Sanctuaries and a Conservation Reserve in Kutch Region. Further, the area has also been declared as Biosphere Reserve and there was no need at present to declare the area as National Park.

After discussion, the Committee observed that the State Government may take appropriate action as deemed fit in the matter.

(ii) The Member Secretary then informed that there was a second proposal related to Point Calimere Sanctuary and its adjacent area. Dr. Rahmani, informed that the Point Calimere Sanctuary was not only important with respect to its black buck population but also due to the large number of Migratory & resident birds found in that area and therefore, the area needs to be protected. He also informed that there were important swampy lands in the nearby area, viz; Great Vedaranyam Swamp and Panchanathikulam Wetlands. Though these areas have been handed over to Forest Department, but has not been declared as Reserve Forests or Protected Area. There was an urgent need for final notification of Point Calimere Sanctuary as well as notification of these wetlands as Conservation Reserves for long term protection of this fragile eco-system and large bio-diversity of birds found there. The area was under great threat from various developmental activities.

After discussion, it was decided that Hon'ble Chairman would write a letter to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu requesting to take necessary measures for conservation of these areas. Dr. Asad Rahmani was requested to provide inputs in this regard.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.3.2: Permission for fishing inside Protected Areas.**

The Member Secretary informed that the Government of Chhattisgarh had forwarded a proposal seeking relaxation for fishing rights inside the Sitanadi Sanctuary. He mentioned that the Standing Committee of NBWL, while recommending the proposal for diversion of 529.70 ha of forest land falling within Sitanadi Sanctuary for construction of Sondhur Dam Reservoir, had imposed a condition that "No fishing should be permitted inside Sondhur Reservoir in view of the fact that hunting inside Wildlife Sanctuary is prohibited under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972".

The Members were of the opinion that the fishing carried on commercial basis would be a violation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Therefore, it could not be permitted. However, as provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, there was no restriction on meeting the *bonafide* needs of the people.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO.3.3: Rationalization of boundaries of Protected Areas.**

The Member Secretary informed that the Rationalization committee had recommended the rationalization of boundaries of Karera Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh, Govind Pashu Vihar Sanctuary/National Park, Uttarakhand and Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary, Maharashtra. These proposals were now placed before the Standing Committee for its recommendation.

#### **Karera Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh:**

With respect to, Karera Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh, the Member Secretary informed that Shri. Mahendra Vyas, Member of Rationalization Committee had inspected the site and submitted his report. In his report he had recommended for denotification of the sanctuary subject to the condition that the Government should find out the cause of disappearance of the Great Indian Bustard and also efforts should be made to declare the Dihaliya Lake as a Conservation Reserve.

Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh informed the committee that there was no earlier precedence of total denotification of a protected area and therefore, before a particular area is denotified, the State Government should first notify equivalent area where there is a sizeable population of Great Indian Bustards. He also informed that the reasons for disappearance of the birds from the area should be ascertained and responsibility should be fixed.

Dr. Rahmani, also agreed with the views expressed by Dr. Ranjitsinh.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh, informed that the bustards were not seen since 1995 and that most of the land inside the sanctuary was private land and people were facing lot of problems.

After detailed discussions, the committee agreed to the proposal for denotification of Karera Wildlife Sanctuary, subject to following conditions:

(i) Dihaliya lake and Government/Revenue land adjacent to lake be declared as sanctuary.

(ii) A survey with the help of experts such as Bombay Natural History Society be carried out to ascertain present status & distribution of Status of Great Indian Bustards in the State of Madhya Pradesh, especially to determine if there are any bustards inhabiting in any areas outside Protected Areas of Madhya Pradesh and if so, these would be established as a Protected Area including expansion of existing Protected Areas or declaration of Conservation Reserves etc.

(iii) If the survey team finds that there are no bustards existing outside Protected Areas or none left in Madhya Pradesh, an area equal to the area to be denotified in Karera Wildlife Sanctuary will be added to the existing Protected Area network of the State.

(iv) Denotification will only be permitted if the equivalent area is added to Protected Area network of the State before the denotification.

(v) The committee surveying the bustard population would also determine the reasons for decimation of bustards in Karera and fix responsibility.

#### **Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Sanctuary, Uttarakhand**

In this case, the Member Secretary informed the committee that the State Government had proposed for deletion of an area of 126.60 sq. Kms from the

Govind National Park and Sanctuary. The total area of Govind Pashu Vihar National Park/Sanctuary was 957.96sq.kms. In this case, site inspection was conducted by Shri. Praveen Bhargav, Member, Rationalization Committee and Dr. G.S. Rawat of Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The site inspection team had recommended the proposal of rationalization of boundaries of Govind Pashu Vihar National Park & Sanctuary subject to the following conditions:

- (a) *Four villages viz Dhatmir, Gangar, Panwadi and Osla should be resettled outside the Govind Wildlife Sanctuary by providing a suitable compensation package including land, housing and other facilities as early as possible in a time bound manner. All existing buildings and houses (excluding forest department structures) must be dismantled and shifted out of the National Park. If some forest land is required for resettlement, necessary clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 must be granted on an urgent basis. Necessary budgetary support must be provided on priority to the State of Uttarakhand for fast tracking the voluntary resettlement project.*
- (b) *On completion of the resettlement process, an additional area of around 185 sq km from the Govind Sanctuary which abuts the National Park must be merged with the existing National Park. This will form a compact, ecologically viable block of around 650 sq km free of all human settlements. The consolidated area to be finally notified as Govind National Park and designated as a core zone, completely free of human presence, NTFP collection and grazing in the alpine meadows (Bugyals).*
- (c) *Other villages within the limits of the existing Sanctuary demanding resettlement must also be offered a similar resettlement package as per the new Government of India package.*
- (d) *The proposal to construct a 16 km motorable road upto Osla should not be considered and no motorable road be constructed beyond Taluka Forest IB.*

(e) *Compartments 2a, 4 and 5 of the Kapragad block and compartments 1a and 1b of Istragad block must not be considered for deletion as it was found during inspection that these contain fairly intact Forests.*

(f) *All isolated 'Chucks' or cultivated land including Sunni Satudi, Unnani, Karba Tatka within a contiguous forest block, some of which were looked at during inspection, must be considered for acquisition to further consolidate forest blocks.*

(g) *The request of people from Phitadi village for granting permission to construct a 1 km stretch of non-block topped road through the Sanctuary may be considered and recommended for seeking permission of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. This will also help better movement of forest department staff. Similarly, the requests of people and the panchayat of Hadwadi for repair of the existing horse trail/track from Dhowla to Chagshil and Dhowla to Salidar appear genuine and may be considered since this does not involve any tree felling or widening.*

(h) *All other compartments proposed for deletion to permit the continuation of admitted rights over timber, grazing and for providing basic infrastructure like power/communication line, primary health centre, motorable roads, horse trails, bridges and other petty demand can be considered subject to the condition that*

i) *The said four villages inside the Sanctuary/National Park are resettled.*

ii) *A 650 sq. km National Park core zone is constituted by issuing final notifications.*

iii) *The alignment of linear intrusions like transmission lines, pipelines, cables in the balance portion of the Sanctuary outside the core zone of the National Park is planned in a manner that causes least fragmentation and damage.*

- iv) The deleted portion should continue as Reserved Forests and not be diverted for agriculture, human settlements or other hydel/developmental projects that may be in the planning stage.*
- (i) Since the proposal involves only deletion of around 100 sq km of the Sanctuary portion, additional forest areas free of human presence that are available in the adjoining forest divisions of Uttarakashi, Yamuna and Tons must be identified and included particularly to the National Park area.*

The Rationalization Committee had also agreed to this proposal as per the recommendations of the site inspecting team.

Under this background, after discussion, the Standing Committee of NBWL, also unanimously decided to recommend the proposal as detailed above.

**Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Sanctuary.**

The Member Secretary informed that initially a task force under Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh for rationalization of boundaries had recommended for deletion of area of the Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary from 8496.44 sq. kms to 347.63 sq. kms. Thereafter, as per the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a committee under Shri. V.B. Sawarkar surveyed the area in detail and recommended retention of an area of 1222.61 sq.kms in the GIB Sanctuary, reducing from 8496.44 sq. kms.

The Rationalization Committee had also examined the proposal and a site inspection was carried out by Shri. Mahendra Vyas, Member, Rationalization Committee. The rationalization committee had recommended to adopt the Sawarkar Committee report and to reduce the area to 1222.61 sq kms. subject to the condition that other suitable areas in the State would be considered for upgrading them to the sanctuary status, as follows:

| Sl.No. | Name | District | Area in Sq. km. |
|--------|------|----------|-----------------|
|--------|------|----------|-----------------|

|    |                       |                     |        |
|----|-----------------------|---------------------|--------|
| 1. | Mansinghdeo           | Nagpur              | 182.29 |
| 2. | Rajmachi              | Thane, Pune, Alibag | 122.96 |
| 3. | Sudhagarh Tamni       | Western Ghats       | 220.18 |
| 4. | Tipagarh              | Gadchiroli          | 52.4   |
| 5. | Kopela                | Gadchiroli          | 90.93  |
| 6. | Isapur Bird Sanctuary | Yawatmal            | 121.55 |

After discussion, the Standing Committee recommended reduction of the area of the sanctuary to 1222.61sq kms from the existing 8496.44 sq. kms subject to the condition that suitable areas as indicated above be considered for declaring as Protected Areas. The Chief Wildlife Warden may use his discretion in prioritizing these areas and atleast one of the above, preferably, Mansinghdeo should be declared as a Protected Area before reducing the Sanctuary area.

#### **Bhimashankar Sanctuary**

The Member Secretary informed that the State Government had proposed for denotification of 11.931 sq kms from the sanctuary including the temple and to add 12.783 sq. kms of the adjoining Reserve Forest to the Sanctuary. He also informed that the site was inspected by Shri Mahendra Vyas, Member, Rationalization Committee, and he had submitted a report rejecting the proposal. Considering the inspection report, the Rationalization Committee has rejected the proposal of denotification, but has recommended for providing certain facilities for pilgrims visiting the Bhimashankar Temple, as detailed in the **Annexure- 2**.

The Standing Committee, after going through all the details, ratified the recommendation of the Rationalization Committee for providing facilities to the pilgrims and rejecting the proposal of denotification. It was also decided that, minor changes, as per the site requirement, could be made by the Chief Wildlife Warden while finalizing the various facilities detailed in the **Annexure-2**.

#### **Agenda item no. 4: Fresh Proposals:**

**(A) I.A. referred by Hon'ble Supreme Court**

**(1) Diversion of 180.79 ha of forestland for construction of Adhwa-meja link canal of Bansagar canal project of Uttar Pradesh.**

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal for diversion of 180.79 ha of forestland for construction of Adhwa-meja link canal of Bansagar canal project of Uttar Pradesh was considered by the Standing Committee of Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL) in its meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2002 and it was decided to recommend the diversion subject to the certain pre-conditions including Relocation of 10 villages outside Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary. The applicant agency had approached Hon'ble Supreme Court for grant of clearance for the project. Hon'ble Supreme Court had directed that the matter should again go to the N.B.W.L. for exploring the feasibility of the proposal. The Standing Committee however, did not find any justification. The Member Secretary, however, informed that so far no such proposal has been received in the Ministry from the State Government and it has been placed before the Committee for information.

**(B) Non I.A's:**

**(1) Establishment of Lighted Beacon at Patrie Island- taking up non forestry activities in National Park.**

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for diversion of 0.225ha for establishment of lighted Beacon at Patrie Island falling within Patrie Island Sanctuary. He also mentioned that the proposal did not have the recommendation for the State Board for Wildlife.

The Committee, after discussions, decided that the recommendation of State Board for Wildlife in this regard be obtained first before presenting it for the recommendation of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.

**(2) Diversion of forestland in Chennur & Yenchapalli RFs of Mancherial Division for formation of Road-NH 16 from Nizamabad to Jagdalpur to connect missing links to NH in favour of E.E., R & B, NH Division,Perkit.**

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for diversion of 12.892 ha of forestland in chennur & Yenchapalli RFs for construction of road from Nizamabad to Jagdalpur to connect missing links to NH in favour of E.E., R & B, NH Division,Perkit. He also informed that, the Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh has recommended the proposal with the conditions to erect 2 meter high wall/fence to prevent any wild animal. Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh suggested that 2 meter height is too less for blackbucks and the minimum should be atleast 4 meters

The Committee, after discussions, unanimously decided to recommend the proposal subject to the conditions of erecting 4 meter high wall/fence to prevent any wild animal from coming to the highway to avoid accidental deaths of Black Bucks and other animals. In addition all other precautions should be taken as has been advised in the guidelines issued by Wildlife Institute of India in this regard, which are available on the website of Wildlife Institute of India.

**(3) Proposal for laying 220 KV transmission line from existing 400/220 KV station at G.D. Nellore.**

The Member Secretary briefed the committee that the proposal was for laying 220 KV transmission line from existing 400/220 KV station at G.D. Nellore. He also informed that the proposed area was 5 kms away from the Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary and was falling within the Rayala Elephant Reserve and not in any Protected Area.

After deliberations, the Committee recommended the proposal.

**(4) Proposal for manufacture of ductile iron spun pipes as a down stream value added product and a sinter plant of 2,50,000 TPA capacity to utilize iron ore fines which are locally available and further to upgrade the blast furnace technology.**

It was informed that the proposal was for manufacture of ductile iron spun pipes as a down stream value added product and a sinter plant of 2,50,000 TPA

capacity to utilize iron ore fines which are locally available and further to upgrade the blast furnace technology. He also informed that the plant was located at a distance of 3.25 kms from the boundary of Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary.

The Committee was of the view that, such activities, even though outside Protected Areas would have negative impacts on the Wildlife in the sanctuary as well on the existing bio-diversity. In view of this, the Committee, after discussions, unanimously decided to reject the proposal.

**(5) Proposal of M/S Shri. A.X.Poi Palondicar for production of Iron Ore with production Capacity of 0.20 MTPA and expansion in capacity of Manganese ore from 0.010208 MTPA.**

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for production of Iron Ore with production capacity of 0.20 MTPA and expansion in capacity of Manganese ore from 0.010208 MTPA. He also informed that the proposed mine was 5.3kms in South -East and 6.5kms East of the Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Committee was of the view that, mining activities, even though outside Protected Areas would have negative impacts on the Wildlife in the sanctuary as well on bio-diversity and environment. In view of this, the Committee, after discussions, unanimously decided to reject the proposal.

**(6) Proposal for laying of Optical fiber Cable along S.H. on Boranda road from Mata Na Madh to near Saran Village, Narayan Sarovar Chinakara Sanctuary.**

The Member Secretary briefed the committee that the proposal was for laying of Optical fiber Cable along State Highway on Boranda road from Mata Na Madh to near Saran Village. He informed that the proposal had the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife and that the Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat while recommending the proposal had imposed a condition that the area would be brought back to its original condition after completion of work. The proposal was recommended, after discussions by the committee, subject to the following conditions: (i) After completing the work the area will be brought back

to the original position.(ii) No damage will be caused to the forest and wildlife.(iii) No tree will be cut and separate approval under FCA, 1980 will be obtained by the user agency.

**(7) Diversion of forest land in Kutch desert Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of road from Kunaria to Mauvana, Gujarat.**

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for diversion of 336.10 ha of forestland in Kutch desert Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of road from Kunaria to Mauvana, Gujarat. He also informed that the proposal was recommended by the State Board for Wildlife.

The Committee while discussing the proposal was of the view that large area of the Kutch Desert Sanctuary was being diverted for the purpose of this road. Principal Secretary (Forests), Gujarat, informed the committee that the project proponents during discussions with the State Government recently had decided to reduce the total area for diversion to only 80 ha and thereby reducing the impact on the Wildlife in the area.

In this background, the Committee, after discussion decided that a revised proposal in this regard be submitted by the State Authorities correcting the area.

**(8) Proposal for laying of 220 KV Double Circuit Zainkote-Alusteng-Mirbazar Transmission Line (ZAMTL) via Zabarwan Hills.**

It was informed to the committee that the proposal was for laying of 220 KV Double Circuit Zainkote-Alusteng-Mirbazar Transmission Line (ZAMTL) via Zabarwan Hills and the State Board for Wildlife has recommended this proposal. The Committee also observed that the Chief Wildlife Warden while recommending the proposal had mentioned that the land would remain with forest and wildlife department for management purposes.

Dr. Ranjitsinh mentioned that a sheep farm existed in Dachigam National Park and needs to be shifted out of the National Park in the best interest of protection of bio-diversity in the National Park. As it was a separate issue and not linked to the proposal for laying the above quoted transmission line via Zabarwan

Hill, it was decided that Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh would prepare a draft for the Shifting of sheep breeding farms outside the Dachigam National Park and a letter to Hon'ble Chief Minister in this regard would also be written by the Hon'ble Chairman.

The Standing Committee of NBWL, after detailed discussions, decided to recommend this proposal.

**(9) Proposal for exploratory drilling for Uranium in Rongcheng Plateau, Balphakram National Park, South Garo Hills District, Meghalaya.**

The proposal was for exploratory drilling for Uranium in Rongcheng Plateau, Balphakram National Park, South Garo Hills District, Meghalaya. The Member Secretary informed the committee that as per the Section 35 (6) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, any diversion etc. within a National Park needs recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife, while as per Section 29, of the Act any diversion etc. within a Sanctuary needs recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife. Therefore, in the instant case approval of State Board for Wildlife was not statutorily required.

The Committee, after discussions, unanimously decided to recommend for exploratory drilling of Uranium, keeping in mind the necessity for Atomic Energy. The Committee, however, also observed that recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife be obtained for the proposal. Besides, the Committee directed Dr. B. Talukdar, Member, to visit the area and suggest safeguards, if any, to the State Government under intimation to Ministry.

**(10) Proposal for permission of NBWL to establish a panther rescue center at Belvandi in Shrigonda tahsil of Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra Site.**

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for permission to establish a panther rescue center at Belvandi in Shrigonda tahsil of

Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra State. It needs an area of 296.35 ha (290.284 ha Private area & 6.61 ha forest area). The Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra, informed that the proposal was recommended by the State Board for Wildlife and the site was very important with respect to availability of water, seclusion and proximity of the area of panther menace. He also informed that the proposed area was outside the 1222.61 sq kms that has been recommended for Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary after rationalization.

The Committee, after deliberations, unanimously decided to recommend the proposal.

**(11) Proposal for permission for survey and investigation for deletion of area from the Maldhok (GIB) Sanctuary, Maharashtra for widening of NH-9.**

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for permission for survey and investigation for deletion of 328.52 ha of area from the Maldhok (GIB) Sanctuary, Maharashtra for widening of NH-9. The Chief Wildlife Warden informed that the proposal was outside the 1222.61 sq kms that has been recommended for sanctuary after rationalization.

The Committee, after deliberations, unanimously decided to recommend the proposal for survey and investigation.

**(12) Proposal for denotification from Radhanagri Sanctuary for Savarde minor irrigation project.**

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for denotification of 14.12 ha area (10.98 ha submerged area and 3.14 ha dam construction) from Radhanagri Sanctuary for Savarde minor irrigation project. The Member Secretary informed that the proposal had been approved by the Chief Minister, Maharashtra, in the capacity of Chairman, State Board for Wildlife.

The committee after discussions, decided for a site inspection by Dr. Asad Rahmani and that a report be submitted before the end of April, 2010. The Committee also directed that the project proponent should obtain the recommendation of the full State Board for Wildlife before proposal is considered by the Standing Committee in the next meeting.

- (13) **Proposal for construction of Nolav Gravel road with C.P works within Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary boundary under Pradhan mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana package No RJ-19-59 Dist. Jhalawar,Rajasthan.**

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for construction of Nolav Gravel road(5km) with C.P works within Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary boundary under Pradhan mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana package No RJ-19-59 Dist. Jhalawar, Rajasthan. The Committee observed that the recommendations of State Board of Wildlife were not obtained in this case. Therefore, the Committee unanimously decided that, since it was a statutory requirement under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the same should be complied before seeking recommendation of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.

**Proposals numbers (14) to (18)**

(14)**Proposal for clearance from DNP for construction of road Girab to Kubariya within Desert National Park,PWD Circle,Barmer , Rajasthan.**

(15) **Diversion of forestland in Desert National Park for construction of road Harsani Girab Road Km 15 to Ugeri PWD circle, Barmer, Rajasthan.**

(16) **Proposal for erection of 11 KV transmission line for electrification of villages.**

(17) **Proposal for clearance of converting earthen shoulder into hard shoulders of existing Beawar(km 58.245) to Ghomti chauraha(km 177.00) section from km 58/245 to km 177/000 of NH-8 in Todgarh- Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary.**

(18) **Proposal of laying optical fiber cable in Sawai Mansingh Wild life Sanctuary by Idea Cellular Limited.**

The Member Secretary informed that all the above five proposals were pertaining to the State of Rajasthan and that the approval of State Board for Wildlife was still awaited. The Members were of the view that all the above proposals were falling within Wildlife Sanctuaries and it was a statutory requirement for obtaining the recommendation of State Board for Wildlife. In view of this, the committee decided that the recommendations of State Board for Wildlife be obtained for the above proposals before seeking recommendation of Standing Committee of NBWL.

**(19) Proposal for construction of Chambal development scheme-four Hydropower Projects (Rahu ka Gaon, Gujjapura, Jaitpura & Barsala) on Chambal River, Rajasthan.**

The Member Secretary briefed the committee that the proposal was for construction of Chambal development scheme-four Hydropower Projects (Rahu ka Gaon, Gujjapura, Jaitpura & Barsala) on Chambal River, Rajasthan.

The Committee had, while discussing a proposal with respect to construction of Dholpur lift irrigation project (under Action taken Report) had decided that Wildlife Institute of India, Bombay Natural History Society & World Wide Fund- India would carry out a study in this regard in consultation of State Authorities. The study would cover all related aspects of Chambal River basin, impacts of various proposed projects on river flow and its aquatic life and water availability in the river. This Committee would submit its report within 9 months. The present proposal for Dholpur lift as well as four proposals of hydro power projects submitted by Government of Rajasthan would be decided only after studying the findings of above mentioned committee.

**(20) Proposal for diversion of forest land falling within Mudumalai Tiger Reserve for reconstruction of bridge at K.M. 29/2- Thalaikundah- Kallahatty-Theppakadu road and for use of causeway.**

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee on 18.08.2009 and had agreed in-principle for reconstruction of the bridge, however, the Government of Tamil Nadu would take prior approval for State Board for Wildlife and submit their recommendation to the Standing Committee of NBWL. The State Government has obtained the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife.

The Committee, decided to recommend the proposal for reconstruction of the bridge.

**Agenda item no. 5: Any other item with the permission of Chair:**

- (1) **Collection of Bamboo from Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary and Tiger Reserve, Orissa:** The Member Secretary informed that the State Government of Orissa had submitted a proposal seeking recommendation of the Standing Committee of NBWL for collection of bamboo from Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary and Tiger Reserve. The State Government had also indicated that an I.A. in this regard has also been filed before the Central Empowered Committee (CEC). The CEC has since, submitted its recommendations to the Hon'ble Supreme Court with certain conditions. The committee after discussions was in agreement with the recommendations of the Central Empowered Committee along with the conditions imposed by them which are as follows:

The felling and removal of bamboo will be done by engaging only the EDCs and the VSSs located with the P.A. and those located in the immediate vicinity. The material so felled will be kept in small decentralized depots;

- i. The felled bamboo will be distributed to the villagers located within the Protected Area and in the immediate vicinity free of cost based on a plan to be prepared in this regard by the Orissa Forest Department. No commercial exploitation or sale to industry will be permissible;

- ii. Rigid fire prevention measures, tending operations and soil and moisture conservation measures will be taken to ensure the establishment of regeneration and to prevent accelerated soil erosion and moisture loss; and
- iii. No labour camp will be established close to any water hole or stream used by the wild animals. Adequate precautions will be taken so that the wildlife habitat is not disturbed by the people involved in the felling of bamboo.

However, the committee also observed that the proposal of Orissa was not approved by the State Board for Wildlife which is a Statutory requirement. Therefore, the committee advised for prior approval of State Board for Wildlife before final recommendation is given by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.

**(2) Proposal for carrying out seismic survey in Desert National Park, Rajasthan by M/s. Focus Energy Limited:**

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee in its meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 wherein it was decided that an EIA study would be conducted on the impact of such seismic surveys on the wildlife, especially the burrowing animals, by a reputed institute. The project proponents have now sought recommendation of Standing Committee for carrying out the EIA study by NEERI, Nagpur. The Committee after discussions decided that the study be conducted by Bombay Natural History Society and Wildlife Institute of India atleast for a minimum period of one year so that the actual impact during all seasons could be ascertained.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

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## ANNEXURE - 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING THE MEETING OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup>  
MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE OF NBWL HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL,  
2010

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|    |   |                      |
|----|---|----------------------|
| 1  | Shri Jairam Ramesh<br>Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for<br>Environment & Forests | Chairman             |
| 2  | Shrimati Chandresh Kumari, Member of Parliament,<br>Lok Sabha                                     | Member               |
| 3  | Dr. P.J. Dilip Kumar, Director General of Forests &<br>Special Secretary, MOEF.                   | Member               |
| 4  | Shri M.B. Lal<br>Addl. Director General of Forests (WL)   | Member-<br>Secretary |
| 5  | Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh   | Member               |
| 6  | Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda   | Member               |
| 7  | Dr. Asad Rahmani  | Member               |
| 8  | Dr. Bibhab Talukdar   | Member               |
| 9  | Shri P. R. Sinha<br>Director, Wildlife Institute of India   | Member               |
| 10 | Dr.S.P. Nanda<br>Principal Secretary (E&F), Govt. of Gujarat                                      | Invitee              |
| 11 | Shri A.K. Joshi, PCCF (WL), Govt. of Maharashtra  | Invitee              |
| 12 | Shri Hitesh Malhotra, CWLW, Govt. of Andhra<br>Pradesh  | Invitee              |
| 13 | Shri R.V. Asari, CWLW, Govt. of Gujarat   | Invitee              |
| 14 | Shri V.K. Tandon, CWLW, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh   | Invitee              |
| 15 | Shri. A.K. Srivastava, IGF (WL)   | Invitee              |
| 16 | Shri. Sunil Kumar, CWLW, Govt. of Meghalaya   | Invitee              |
| 17 | Shri. S.S. Sharma, CWLW, Govt. of Uttarakhand   | Invitee              |
| 18 | Shri. R.S. Negi, CWLW, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh  | Invitee              |
| 19 | Shri. D.V. Negi, PCCF (WL), Govt. of A & N Islands  | Invitee              |
| 20 | Shri. N.K. Bhagat, PCCF (WL), Govt. of Chhattisgarh   | Invitee              |
| 21 | Dr. Anmol Kumar, IGF(WL), MOEF  | Invitee              |
| 22 | Shri P.S. Somashekhar, CCF(WL), Govt. of Rajasthan  | Invitee              |
| 23 | Shri. R.L. Meena, CCF , Kutch, Govt. of Gujarat   | Invitee              |

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**Facilities for Pilgrims visiting the Bhimashankar Temple, Maharashtra**

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1. **Construction of three new Toilet Blocks at the following locations:**
  - i. Construction of toilet block in the State Transport Bus Stand complex -Non Forest Area= 30 mtr x 15 mtr=450 sq.mtrs (also mentioned at item no- 4(iv) below).
  - ii. Toilet Block at The Entrance of the starting of 200 mtr length existing staircase- Forest Area =20 mtr x 15 mtr=300 sq.mtrs.
  - iii. Construction of toilet block near Bhimashankar Temple-Non Forest Area= 20 mtr x 15 mtr=300 sq.mtrs.
  
2. **Development of 600 mtrs length Road from Bhimashankar Bus station to Bhimashankar Temple:** - The PWD proposed to develop the existing 600 mtr length murrum surface road into a cement concrete paved road, for emergency exit from the temple complex. Since the existing staircase of 200 mtr length is narrow and is used by both incoming and out going pilgrims, the development of this 600mtr length road is permitted by the committee for the safety of pilgrims.
  
3. **Darshan Mandap and Entrance Gate:**

A darshan mandap was proposed by the PWD to construct a cement concrete structure in two tiers. Ground floor is proposed for the incoming pilgrims and the first floor is for the out going pilgrims. In addition to this the PWD requested for the construction of shops at the entrance. The Committee examined the proposal and unanimously decided to reject this proposal. As it was already suggested to regulate the pilgrims and vehicles at the entrance barricade near Mahatarbachiwadi, where the sanctuary starts. All the shops and establishments can be shifted to this place. Since the Committee has agreed to the development of existing kachha road beside the temple (item no.2 above), for the outgoing pilgrims, this proposal to construct the double storey darashan mandap was rejected.

4. **Pilgrim Centre:-** PWD has proposed total renovation of three existing single storied buildings, in the Kalamjai temple complex (non forest area), into two single storied and one three storied building totaling to 3821 sq. mtrs built up area, for the use of social activities, like bhajan, marriage function, social gathering opposite to the entrance of the temple. Since these activities create disturbance to the wildlife, and development and will encourage number of pilgrims stay in the sanctuary, the Committee unanimously rejected this total renovation proposal. However the Committee has no objection for PWD for undertaking renovation of these three structures not exceeding the present plinth area of each of the existing structures, and restricting the height of building to single storey. The area of each of the existing three buildings is given below.

- i. Vittal Mandir Trust = ( 39mtr X 17.5mtr)=682.5 sq.mtrs area
- ii. Ambegaon Samaj Dindi Trust= (25mtr X 35Mtr)=875 Sq.kms
- iii. Kalamjai Devi Mandir Trust( 35 mtr X 10 mtr)= 350.sq.kms

5. **Bhimashankar Bus Station Complex development:-**The PWD proposed the following developmental works in the existing bus station complex, non forest area.

- i. Construction of compound wall:- There is an existing damaged compound wall to this bus station complex.
- ii. Construction of new single storied bus station complex, after dismantling the existing old structure of 450 sq.mtrs.
- iii. New Internal concrete paving:- a new concrete paving of 60mtr X 40 mtr is proposed.
- iv. New Toilet block of area= 30 mtr x 15 mtr=450 sq.mtrs. (same as mentioned at item no- 1(i) above, not additional).

The Committee discussed these proposed activities and decided that all the above activities can be permitted.

6. **Development of Parking area on Forest Land:-** The PWD has requested to develop parking area with concrete paving for parking tourists vehicles on the forest area, near the existing bus station complex. The Committee has rejected this proposal and advised to regulate the tourists inflow and

regulation of vehicles at the entrance of the Bhimashankar sanctuary near Mahatarbachiwadi.

7. **Construction of Health Centre:-** Presently during the two peak seasons, i.e Shraavan and Shivratri, the sanctuary management allows the Health department to put up temporary medical camp near existing Kalamjai temple. This practice can be continued instead of construction of new structure, hence construction of new health centre near Bhimashankar temple is not permitted. The health department may construct a health centre outside sanctuary boundary on non forest area, i.e. near Mhatarbachiwadi, where a large tourist complex (Bhakta Niwas) is under construction.
8. **Construction of Police Post:-** Presently during the two peak seasons, i.e Shraavan and Shivratri, the sanctuary management allows the Police department to put up temporary police post near Range Forest Office. This practice can be continued instead of construction of new structure, hence construction of new post at Bhimashankar is not permitted. The Police department may construct a police post outside sanctuary boundary, i.e. near Mhatarbachiwadi, where a large tourist complex (Bhakta Niwas) is under construction.
9. **Widening of the existing Mahatarbachiwadi to Bhimashankar State Highway No.53:-** The PWD has proposed widening of the existing 5.5 mtr wide 6 kms length road from Mhatarbachiwadi to Bhimashankar State Highway No.53 to 7.0 mtr passing through the sanctuary. Widening of this road will involve felling of number of number of trees, which will create a break in the forest canopy. Break in the canopy will create fragmentation to the habitat of Malabar Giant Squirrel, which is highly endangered and flagship species of the sanctuary. Hence the road widening proposal is not permitted by the Committee. As suggested in the previous paras, if the temple management regulates the tourists inflow and their vehicles at the entrance of the Bhimashankar sanctuary near Matarbachiwadi, widening of this road may not arise at all.

**10. Construction of Kondwal-Ahupe Road:-** Presently a 10 kms length bituminous surface road and remaining, 5kms length cart track, are connecting the villages Ahupe, Dong, Pimpergane, Nanawade and Tirpada villages. The Committee has examined the proposal and decided that the PWD has to submit a proposal for construction of this new 5kms length road in the prescribed forms of the NBWL (forms I to V).

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