

**Ministry of Environment and Forests
Wildlife Division**

Summary records of the 21st Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) held on 24th January 2011 in Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003.

The 21st meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL was held on 24th January 2011 in Room No. 403, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests.

List of participants who attended the meeting is enclosed (**Annexure-1**)

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

Confirmation of the minutes:

The Member Secretary informed that the draft minutes of the last meeting had been circulated to all the Members and, some comments had been received from Ms. Prerna Bindra. It was decided to add the comments received from Ms. Prerna Bindra as an addendum to the minutes of the 20th meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL held on 13.10.2010. Thereafter, the minutes of 20th Meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

Action taken on pending agenda items of previous meetings:

2[4.2(4)]: Diversion of 7.2871 ha of forest land for construction of Ropeway from Bhavnath Taleti to Ambaji Temple in Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary by Usha Breco Ltd, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The Member Secretary apprised the Committee that proposal was for construction of a Ropeway from Bhavnath Taleti to Ambaji Temple in Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary by Usha Breco Ltd, Ahmedabad, Gujarat and that Hon'ble Chairman would visit the site alongwith Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda and Dr Nita Shah.

Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda informed the committee that he and Dr Nita Shah had already visited the site and had opined that present alignment was not a feasible option as it would have an adverse impact on the vulture population in Girnar. After discussion, Hon'ble Chairman decided that he would himself shortly make a visit to the site

alongwith Dr Nita Shah and a final decision on the matter could be taken in the next meeting based on his observations.

2[4(B)(12)] Proposal for denotification of forest area 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 for submergence and 3.14 ha for dam construction) from Radhanagri Sanctuary for Savarde minor irrigation project. He also informed that the committee had decided for a site inspection by Dr Asad Rahmani and that Dr Asad Rahmani had conducted the site inspection, report whereof had been circulated amongst the members. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra was requested to comment on the recommendations of Dr Rahmani.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra informed that he had examined the conditions suggested by Dr Asad Rahmani and had also made a site visit. However, he clarified that final consent from the State Government was yet to be issued and communicated to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).

The Committee, requested the Chief Wildlife Warden to convey formal acceptance of the conditions by the Government of Maharashtra to the MoEF. A final view in the matter would be taken thereafter.

2[4(2)] Proposal seeking permission for construction of fencing and patrol road along the Indo-Bangladesh Border in Dampa Tiger Reserve, Mizoram.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal pertained to according permission for construction of fencing and patrol road along the Indo-Bangladesh Border in Dampa Tiger Reserve, Mizoram. The Committee earlier had decided that Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh and Dr Rajesh Gopal, Member-Secretary, NTCA would conduct site inspection, suggest alternatives/precautionary measures.

Since the site inspection had not yet been conducted, it was decided to defer the matter to the next meeting of the committee.

2(3.1)(a): Framing ecologically sound policy for dealing with linear intrusions.

Dr T.R. Shankar Raman, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore, gave a brief but impressive presentation on various kinds of linear intrusions like roads, railways, transmission lines, canals etc. adversely impacting the wildlife and their habitats. He brought out the need for putting in place policy guidelines in this regard to minimize the adverse impact on wildlife and habitats due to such linear intrusions.

After discussions, the Committee decided that draft guidelines with respect to laying of transmission lines and construction of roads impacting the Protected Areas be

framed in the first instance. The Committee assigned the task of preparation of draft guidelines to Dr Shankar Raman. It was decided that the Committee would take a view once the draft guidelines were ready.

2(3.1)(b): Need to take different sub-state bodies like Tribal and District Councils in the Northeast, on board in matters relating to conservation.

The Member Secretary informed that the agenda pertained to providing more representation of tribal and district autonomous councils, especially in the North East region, in various bodies and committees dealing with wildlife related matters. It was also suggested that adequate capacity building of such councils was necessary so that they could actively take part in wildlife conservation activities.

The Committee took note of the suggestion in the agenda and desired that the Wildlife Division of the Ministry may write to the concerned State Governments sensitizing them on the issue.

2(3.1)(c) Measures to check damage to environment on account of extraction of minerals.

The Committee decided to take up the matter in the next meeting.

2(3.1)(f) Central funding to be restricted to Protected Areas directly under the Wildlife Wing and managed by trained officers:

The Chairman desired that since Dr Ranjitsinh was not present in the meeting, this item should be deferred and discussed in the next meeting.

2[4.1(9)] Construction and upgradation of 12 existing Rural Roads under PMGSY to provide all weather road connectivity to the villages in Bagdara Sanctuary.

The Member Secretary apprised the Committee that during the 20th meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL, it was decided that a team comprising Ms. Purna Bindra, Shri Kishore Rithe, Satpura Foundation, and Dr T.R. Shankar Raman, NCF, Mysore would conduct a site inspection and submit a report thereof to the Committee. He informed that since the members had not yet undertaken the inspection, the agenda item may be deferred.

The Committee decided to defer the matter.

2[4.1 (13)] Maintenance/repair work of 17.15 km road from Indwar-tala-Parsi passing through Panpatha Wildlife Sanctuary and Bandhavgarh National Park, M.P.

2[4.1(14)] Construction and upgradation of rural part of the existing road, under PMGSY which is connecting habitations to all weather BT road from Kerkeli Raipur Bagdari road to Chechariya, Madhya Pradesh.

The Member-Secretary informed that during the 20th meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL, the proposal pertaining to maintenance work of Indwar-Tala-Parsi road through Panpatha Sanctuary and Bandhavgarh National Park was recommended with certain conditions. One of the conditions was that adequate speed breakers at suitable distance for safety of wildlife would be provided for which, Dr A.J. T. Johnsingh would visit the site and suggest mitigatory measures including construction of the speed breakers. It was also informed that during the last meeting of the committee, considering another proposal pertaining to construction and upgradation of rural road from Kerkeli Raipur to Chechariya, it was separately decided that Dr Johnsingh would conduct a site inspection and submit a report thereof.

The Member Secretary informed that Dr Johnsingh had conducted the site inspection with respect to both the above proposals and the report had been circulated to all the members along with the agenda.

After discussions, the Committee decided to accept the suggestions made by Dr Johnsingh except with respect to the concreting of parts of roads running inside the Bandhavgarh National Park. The Committee also decided that the following conditions would also be abided by the State Government:

- i. 5 % of the project cost for the area falling within the Protected Areas would be paid by the user agency for the development of the Panpatha Wildlife Sanctuary and Bandhavgarh National Park.
- ii. The road development shall be carried out with utmost care to ensure that no damage is caused to the wildlife and its habitat.
- iii. No realignment shall be done.
- iv. For movement of runoff water and wildlife, a minimum of one subway per 3 kms, for maintaining continuity of water flow will be made.
- v. Speed limit within the stretch of road passing through the Sanctuary should be restricted to 20 Kms/hr.
- vi. All construction material and other material will be brought from outside the sanctuary and no digging for extraction material will be done in the Protected Areas.
- vii. All the conditions laid down by Government of Madhya Pradesh or any Government agency shall be binding on the user agency.
- viii. No further works would be planned on the above roads.
- ix. All vehicles will enter sanctuary area after sunrise and shall exit the sanctuary before sunset.
- x. Heavy vehicular traffic should be avoided as it may cause permanent disturbance inside the sanctuary.
- xi. NPV and compensatory afforestation charges will be paid by the user agency to the Chief Wildlife Warden as per norms.
- xii. The user agency should also abide by any other conditions that may be prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

- xiii. The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified, before the Standing Committee of NBWL after completion of the project.

2 [4.1 (17)] Diversion of 0.205 ha of forest land from Fambonglho Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of Sang Naya Bazar water supply scheme from Lalichok to Sang in East Sikkim.

2 [4.1 (18)] Diversion of 1.9718 ha of forest land from Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of water supply scheme from Mithuney to Rhenock in (South) Sikkim.

2 [4.1 (19)] Diversion of 0.50 ha of forest land from Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of water supply scheme from Jelep la stream to Kupup in (North) Sikkim.

The Member Secretary informed that in its last meeting, the Committee had decided that a team comprising Ms. Prerna Bindra and Dr A.J. T. Johnsingh would conduct a site inspection and submit a report to the Committee.

Dr A J T Johnsingh informed that he was unable to conduct the site inspection and would be in position to do so only during April 2011. In view of this, the Chairman desired that Ms. Prerna Bindra alone would visit the site and submit the report at an early date.

2 [4.1 (23)] Permission for construction of an Embankment on the Left Bank of River Ganga from village Sherpur to village Thet falling in the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh.

The Member-Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal was for construction of an embankment on left bank of river Ganga and that project area fell within the Hastinapur Sanctuary. He also informed that the proposal had been cleared by the Hon'ble Supreme Court with the condition (in addition to others) that approval of Standing Committee of NBWL would also be obtained before starting any work on the project. Member Secretary informed that in the last meeting, the proposal had been deferred as the recommendation of State Board for Wildlife had not been obtained.

The Standing Committee of NBWL was informed that the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) had been obtained. In view of the fact that Supreme Court had already cleared the proposal, and SBWL had also recommended the case, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal subject to the conditions stipulated by Hon'ble Supreme Court.

2 [4.1 (25)] Diversion of 6.07 ha of forest land from Rajaji National Park for establishment of Ayush Gram, Uttarakhand.

The Member-Secretary informed that the proposal was for establishment of Ayush Gram within Rajaji National Park and that Dr A. J. T. Johnsingh along with representative of the Director, Wildlife Institute of India had conducted the site inspection and the report had been circulated to the members along with the agenda notes.

The Committee after discussions decided to accept the report of the site inspection team subject to the review of implementation of the following conditions (as suggested by the site inspection team) jointly by the Director, Wildlife Institute of India and Dr A. J.T. Johnsingh. The committee desired that conditions proposed after review should be brief, focused and explicit.

- (i) *“A bridge across Ganga should be built from the west bank to the east bank to divert the traffic, including the buses and trucks, which now go along the Haridwar-Chilla-Kunaun road to Lakshman jhula, to go directly from Haridwar to Lakshman Jhula across the bridge. Mr. Chandola, CWLW had informed that a proposal for a bridge across Ganga, with reference to the proposed Ayush Gram, was on the anvil. Later..... Lakshman jhula is enough or they want to have one more near Chaurasi kuttia.*
- (ii) *Gobri Range should be freed of gujjars including those living between the canal and the Ganga.*
- (iii) *Presently Chilla Range (which is tenuously connected to the Corbett Tiger Reserve across the Lansdowne Forest Division) has been freed of gujjars resulting in a remarkable recovery in tiger numbers. There is evidence that tigers are now using the Shyampur Range, which is to the south of Chilla Range. This range has equal potential like the Chilla Range and it should be annexed with Rajaji NP. This will immensely strengthen tiger and elephant conservation in this landscape and strengthen the connectivity between Rajaji and Corbett landscape. It should also be noted that Shyampur Range has problems such as an ashram in Sidh sot (an encroachment), and gujjar settlements and encroachers on the left bank of Ganga on the border of the Range, who largely make a living by cutting wood. The management and protection of Shyampur range must be taken up on a priority basis.*
- (iv) *Outsiders (those not working in Chilla Power House) should be evicted from the Chilla colony..... Haridwar even at night which impedes the movement of elephants from going to Ganga.*
- (v) *So as to have a baseline data, Wildlife Institute of India should immediately embark on a study to quantify large mammal abundance..... to assess the number of tigers and leopards using the forest between the barrage and Chaurasi kutia.*
- (vi) *Only after the above suggestions are fully implemented to the satisfaction of National Board for Wildlife, permission to develop Ayush Gram may be given.”*

2[4.2(1)] Enhancing the capacity of cement plant by M/s Parashakti Cements Ltd- Reconsideration of case thereof-

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal was for reconsideration of clearance that had been granted earlier by the Committee. The Chief Wildlife Warden informed that nothing adverse had come to the notice of the State

Government in respect of this case. In view of this, the Standing Committee decided not to reconsider the clearance that it had earlier granted.

2[4.2(5)] Diversion of 879.666 ha (840.00 ha of forest land and 39.666 ha Revenue forest land) for Mandla North underground mining coal block for M/s Jaiprakash Associates ltd, Distt. Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh

The Member Secretary informed that in the last meeting, the Committee had sought a consolidated report of NTCA, Wildlife Institute of India and Shri Kishore Rithe, Satpuda Foundation, Amravati. As the report was still awaited, the Committee decided to defer the matter.

2[4.2 (6)] Diversion of following land for limestone mines in eco-sensitive zone of Son Gharial Crocodile Sanctuary within 10 km of the Mining lease, Madhya Pradesh.

- (i) Badgawna Revenue, Distt.Sindhi-68.910 ha.(Revenue land)
- (ii) Majhigawan Extension, Distt.Sidhi-54.825 ha (Forest Land)
- (iii) Hinauti Extension, Distt.Satna, 258.864 ha (Forest land).

The Member Secretary informed that in the last meeting, the Committee had sought a site inspection report by Dr Asad Rahmani. As the report was still awaited, the Committee decided to defer the matter.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

3.1 Inclusion of Jerdon's Courser (*Rhinoptilus bitorquatus*) in the list of the species for Recovery Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that Jerdon's Courser was one of the world's rarest birds, which was rediscovered in 1986 in Andhra Pradesh, after it had been thought to be extinct. He also informed that in order to have a planned programme for conservation of the bird, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had proposed to cover the rare species under the MoEF's species recovery plan. The Member Secretary further informed that under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', fifteen species were included under the Species Recovery programme and that any further addition to the list required approval of the Standing Committee of NBWL.

The Committee agreed to the proposal to include Jerdon's Courser as 16th species under Recovery Plan.

3.2 Constitution of a National Tri-State-Chambal Sanctuary Management and Coordination Committee for conservation of Gharial (NTRIS-CAS MACC)

The Member Secretary apprised the Committee that in order to have a better coordination amongst the three States sharing the Chambal river, which was the habitat of the critically endangered Gharials, the Ministry had constituted the National Chambal

Sanctuary Management and Coordination Committee for conservation of Gharial (NTRIS-CAS MACC).

The Standing Committee took note of the constitution of NTRIS-CASMACC and endorsed the initiative of the Ministry for having a coordination mechanism for conservation of the Gharials.

3.3 Policy on taking up black topping, cementing of roads etc inside National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries

The Member Secretary apprised the Committee that activities related to black topping, cementing etc inside the Protected Areas generally caused disturbance to the wildlife. He also informed that the Standing Committee of IBWL in its meeting held on 14.9.2000 had prohibited black topping inside National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. However, permission was being accorded from time to time by the Standing Committee of NBWL for black-topping inside such areas on case to case basis, and on the merits and essentiality of the project proposal.

The Committee, after discussion, decided that permission for black topping/cementing inside National Parks and Sanctuaries should be considered on a case to case basis and threadbare analysis of the essentiality and merits of the case.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

4.1 Fresh proposals for diversion of forest area of National Parks and Sanctuaries

4.1 (1) Diversion of 0.430 ha of forest land in Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary for laying of optical cable by Reliance Communications Ltd, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee on the said proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat mentioned that the optical fiber cable was to be laid along the existing boundary of PWD road. He also mentioned that he had recommended the proposal with the condition that the area would be brought back to its original condition after laying of the cable.

After deliberations, the Committee recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:

- i. All debris generated as a result of construction work including waste materials, shall be removed, and the area shall be brought back to the original condition immediately after the completion of laying of optical fibre cables.
- ii. Labour camp for construction work shall be kept away from the sanctuary area and fuelwood and other requirement of labour shall be met with purchase from market. In no case, the sanctuary shall be burdened with such requirements.
- iii. Deployment of staff and vehicles shall be kept minimum in the project area, and use of area other than that included in the proposal shall not be permitted.

- iv. The user agency shall strictly ensure that no damage is caused to flora and fauna in the area.
- v. All activities pertaining to laying of the cable shall be restricted to 45 cms wide strip, and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal. The material for the construction will be obtained from non-forest area falling outside the sanctuary.
- vi. Any other condition that may be imposed separately by the Chief Wildlife Warden/ Government and/or the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife will also be strictly complied with.
- vii. The legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
- viii. During execution of work, no damage or disturbance to wildlife sanctuary and wildlife will be done, no tree will be cut, and there shall be created no obstruction to the flow of water.
- ix. Approval under Forest Conservation Act will be obtained separately for use of forest land.
- x. User Agency shall contribute 5% of the project cost towards wildlife management in the region.
- xi. The Chief Wildlife Warden or any officer authorized by or working under him, may monitor the compliance of conditions mentioned above. Any non-compliance partly or wholly, may lead to cancellation of this permission.
- xii. The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified, before the Standing Committee of NBWL after completion of the project.

4.1 (2) Proposal for construction of four laning of National Highway (NH-1A) from Jammu to Udhampur passing through Ramnagar (7.97 ha) and Nandni Wildlife Sanctuary (13.40 ha) in Jammu region by NHAI.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the said proposal. He mentioned that the State Board for Wildlife had recommended the proposal. After discussions, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden:

- (i) The status of the land shall remain unchanged.
- (ii) As per the decision in the Standing Committee meeting of State Board for Wildlife 42.74 hectares of forest land in compartment No. 5/Tunnel shall be added to the Nandni Wildlife Sanctuary.
- (iii) The User Agency will pay 5% of the cost in proportion to the length falling in the sanctuary area of Jammu-Udhampur section of National Highway to the Wildlife Department to be spent on conservation and development of wildlife.
- (iv) The User Agency, while implementing the road construction project, will abide by the orders to be issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and follow provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978 (Amended upto 2002) strictly.
- (v) The User Agency shall also pay NPV charges to the extent of Rs. 7.77 crores on the land to be diverted as per Hon'ble Supreme Court orders.

- (vi) The portion of the project being used for haulage (approach roads) for excavation of muck from tunnels, shall be restored to the Wildlife Department after completion of work.
- (vii) The existing road falling in the sanctuary that shall be abandoned due to realignment shall be handed over to the Wildlife Department.
- (viii) The right of way shall be 60 meters.
 - (ix) The User Agency shall secure environmental clearance if required under rules and the environmental clearance shall be implemented as per rules and regulations in vogue.
 - (x) The User Agency will follow the eco friendly engineering practices during the construction.
 - (xi) The project staff and labourers involved in the construction of the road will be sensitized about the do's and don'ts in Ramnagar Nandni Wildlife Sanctuaries.
 - (xii) Warning/ information sign boards and hoardings shall be provided on the road sections passing through the wildlife sanctuary.
 - (xiii) No borrowing of soil/ earth shall be carried out within boundary of the wildlife sanctuary.
 - (xiv) No quarrying /mining operations shall be carried out within boundary of the wildlife sanctuary.
 - (xv) For control of dust clouds, water sprinkling shall be carried out regularly on the road sections under project work.
 - (xvi) "No Horn" signage shall be provided by the user agency at the spots where the road passes through the wildlife sanctuary.
 - (xvii) Noisy construction works shall be scheduled to coincide with the period when wildlife would be least affected. No construction works shall be carried out during night time.
 - (xviii) Monitoring of air, noise and water quality shall be carried out along the road to ensure the effectiveness of the environmental management measures.
 - (xix) Any form of poaching by anyone, particularly by the road construction workers, will be strictly prevented. In the event of any case of poaching noticed during the construction of the roads, the user agency would be held responsible.
 - (xx) The construction debris generated due to the construction of road will be disposed of in an environmental friendly manner outside the limits of the sanctuary.
 - (xxi) The User Agency will ensure that littering of any kind is strictly avoided by its staff and also by construction workers. All waste material such as plastics, tar barrels, gunny sacks, bottles, tin cans etc. would be properly disposed of. No waste material will be left either near or away from the road in the sanctuary.
 - (xxii) The User Agency will ensure that minimum damage is done to the local flora. Cutting of local flora by construction workers would be strictly prohibited. The concerned officials of the user agency would conduct surprise checks, in collaboration with the Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Jammu or his representative to see that no damage is caused to the flora and fauna.
 - (xxiii) The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified, before the Standing Committee of NBWL after completion of the project.

4.1 (3) Diversion of 145.26 ha of forest land falling in Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary for Subarnrekha Multipurpose Irrigation Project, Jharkhand.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal for diversion of 145.26 ha of forest land falling in Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary for Subarnrekha Multipurpose Irrigation Project, Jharkhand was recommended by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its meeting held on 25th August 2004 with certain conditions. The present proposal is for consideration of the compliance of the conditions stipulated by the Standing Committee of NBWL.

After discussions, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to receipt of a communication from the State Government of Jharkhand intimating its acceptance of all conditions stipulated by the Standing Committee while considering the proposal in its meeting held on 25th August 2005 and also the conditions laid down by the Sen Committee. It was also decided that a Monitoring Committee, comprising some members of Standing Committee of NBWL and the Ministry, would closely watch the compliance of the conditions. The State Government would also regularly submit a quarterly progress report of compliance to the Standing Committee of NBWL.

4.1(4) Diversion of 6.38 ha of forest land from Umarthuna/Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of road Tejpur-Nandwai-Charcha Km 13 to Umarthuna (0/0 to 8/500) under PMGSY, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that proposal was for construction of gravel road for rural connectivity. After discussions, the Committee recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:

- (i) 5 % of the project cost proportionate to the area falling within the sanctuary would be paid by the user agency for the development of the Umarthuna/Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary.
- (ii) No black topping of the above roads would be done.
- (iii) The road development shall be carried out with utmost care.
- (iv) It shall be ensured that no damage is caused to the wildlife and sanctuary.
- (v) No realignment shall be permissible.
- (vi) No night camping shall be allowed during the construction of road by labour, and construction activity will be permitted only during daytime only.
- (vii) Speed breakers will be constructed at an interval of 500 mts. in sanctuary area by user agency.
- (viii) No tree cutting will be allowed.
- (ix) All construction material for road will be brought from outside the sanctuary.
- (x) The User Agency will not create burrow pit in sanctuary area, for construction of the road.
- (xi) User Agency will clear all the debris after construction activity is over.
- (xii) The User Agency will put and maintain signboards at every two kilometers distance on both sides of the road mentioning that the road is passing through

Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary and drivers should be watchful about wildlife and drive cautiously.

- (xiii) The user agency should also abide by any other conditions that may be prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (xiv) The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified, before the Standing Committee of NBWL after completion of the project.

4.1 (5) Diversion of 3.0 ha of forest land from Bassi Wildlife sanctuary for upgradation of road Mahesara-Chhota-Kheda to Jhariya Mahadev road km 4/0 to 8/0 under PMGSY, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that proposal was for construction of gravel road for fulfilling the bonafide needs of the local villagers. After discussions, the Committee recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:

- (i) 5 % of the project cost proportionate to the area falling within the Sanctuary would be paid by the user agency for the development of the Umarthuna/Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary.
- (ii) No black topping of the above roads would be done.
- (iii) The road development shall be carried out with utmost care.
- (iv) It shall be ensured that no damage is caused to the wildlife and sanctuary.
- (v) No realignment shall be permissible.
- (vi) No night camping shall be allowed during the construction of road by labour, and construction activity will be permitted only during daytime only.
- (vii) Speed breakers will be constructed at an interval of 500 mts. in sanctuary area by user agency.
- (viii) No tree cutting will be allowed.
- (ix) All construction material for road will be brought from outside the sanctuary.
- (x) The User Agency will not create barrow pit in sanctuary area, for construction of the road.
- (xi) User Agency will clear all the debris left after construction activity is over.
- (xii) The User Agency will put and maintain signboards at every two kilometers distance on both sides of the road mentioning that the road is passing through Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary and drivers should be watchful about wildlife and drive cautiously.
- (xiii) The user agency should also abide by any other conditions that may be prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (xiv) The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified, before the Standing Committee of NBWL after completion of the project.

4.1 (6) Permission for 330 MW Dholpur Gas based combined cycle thermal power project stage-II drawing water from National Chambal Ghariyal Sanctuary at Dholpur, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal was for the Stage -II of the 330 MW gas based thermal power project which required 10 cusec water from the Chambal river.

The Committee, after discussion, decided to await the combined report of the Wildlife Institute of India, Bombay Natural History Society and the World Wide Fund for Nature-India, regarding permissible water intake from Chambal River for the thermal power project.

4.1 (7) Proposal for laying of optical fiber cable from Sayara to Sadri in Kumbalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary by M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd., Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal was for laying of optical fibre cable through Kumbalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary by M/S Bharti Airtel Ltd. After discussions, the Committee recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:

- (i) No tree cutting will be allowed.
- (ii) No night camping will be allowed for labour during laying of the optical fibre in sanctuary area.
- (iii) Work will be done during the day time only.
- (iv) Appropriate protection measures for trees/roots of trees during laying of fibre will be provided at user agency's cost.
- (v) The trenches will be refilled by user agency.
- (vi) 5% of the project cost proportionate to the project area following in the sanctuary will be deposited for the development of the sanctuary area by user agency.
- (vii) The user agency should also abide by any other conditions that may be prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (viii) The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified, before the Standing Committee of NBWL after completion of work on the project

4.1(8) Proposal for repair and black topping of existing approach road to Taragarh Fort (Ramgarh Wildlife Sanctuary), Bundi, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal involved black topping of the road. The Committee, after discussions, did not find merit in the proposal and decided to reject the proposal.

4.1(9) Proposal for construction of aerial ropeway from Kanak Vrindavan to Jaigarh Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan, informed that diversion of only 1.51 ha should be approved after deducting the area proposed for cafeteria etc. inside the sanctuary. The Committee

after discussion recommended the proposal for diversion of only 1.51 ha of forest land from Nahargarh Sanctuary for construction of the aerial ropeway.

4.1(10) Proposal for clearance of converting earthen shoulders into *pucca* shoulders on existing road from 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, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. After discussion, the Committee decided not to permit any widening of the road. However, measures for improving the road safety could be undertaken including strengthening of the shoulders with gravel.

4.1(11) Proposal for construction of well foundations in Ganga River at Samneghat, Varanasi for 200 KV Sahupuri-Bhelupur Transmission line passing through Kachhua Wildlife Sanctuary, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee on the proposal. After discussion, the Committee recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions and mitigation measures:

- (i) Protection and mitigation measures for wildlife should be ensured as per standard practice in such cases.
- (ii) Uttar Pradesh Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. should provide the funds for containing the negative impact on wildlife and for undertaking eco- development activities as per guidelines of Government of India.
- (iii) The land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- (iv) During construction work, intense patrolling will be carried out for which logistic support like motorized fibre boat, search lights, life jackets, wages for the daily wage workers etc shall be provided by the user agency.
- (v) Construction waste materials under any circumstances will not be thrown into the river, neither the debris will be left on the banks of the river. All such materials shall be carried away by the user agency for safe disposal.
- (vi) Any kind of pollution specially due to lack of sanitary facilities and light and sound will not be permitted.
- (vii) User agency will ensure that none of their workers will indulge in any activity detrimental to wildlife. If anything untoward happens, the user agency will be held responsible for the same.
- (viii) During the construction period, a temporary forest chowki with a temporary employee will be established, for which necessary finances will be provided by the user agency.
- (ix) User agency will take all precautions including technical measures to contain pollution of water due to construction activities.
- (x) No work shall be allowed between sunset to sunrise.
- (xi) No labour camp shall be established in sanctuary area.

- (xii) The user agency shall also abide by any other conditions that may be prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (xiii) The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified, before the Standing Committee of NBWL after completion of the project

4.1(12) Diversion of 6.925 ha of forest land in Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary for strengthening and widening to four lane road the existing NH-24 from Hapur to Moradabad KM 93 to KM 104.700 in J.P. Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh.

And

4.1(13) Diversion of 3.9892 ha of forest land in Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary for widening of existing 2 lane of NH-24 to 4 lane road from KM 86.00 to KM 93 in Ghaziabad district, Uttar Pradesh.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that both the proposals involved the Hastinapur Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh. He also briefed the Committee regarding the proposals. After discussions, the Committee recommended both the proposals subject to following conditions:

- (i) A Conservation Plan for the Swamp Deer would be prepared and implemented by the State Government. The conservation plan will be prepared in consultation with Dr Afifullah Khan of Aligarh Muslim University.
- (ii) Speed breakers with fluorescent paint warning signages shall be constructed in areas where the wild animals usually cross the pathway. The places where such works shall be carried out will be decided by the concerned DFO.
- (iii) Storage, melting and mixing of coaltar should take place only on the diverted land. Any requirement of firewood for melting of coaltar by the user agency shall be met by purchasing it from the Forest Corporation or from market, and no firewood shall be collected from the nearby forest area.
- (iv) No labour camps shall be established inside the forest/sanctuary area.
- (v) No work shall be allowed between sunset to sunrise.
- (vi) No crushing/breaking of stone shall be allowed inside sanctuary/forest area.
- (vii) Construction debris will be disposed of outside the sanctuary area.
- (viii) Appropriate safeguard measures shall be taken to contain noise pollution.
- (ix) The stipulations above from serial no. 2 to 7 shall be valid while carrying out maintenance and repair work also.
- (x) The user agency shall also abide by any other conditions that may be prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (xi) The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified, before the Standing Committee of NBWL after completion of the project.

4.1(14) Diversion of 7.116 ha of forest land from Askot Wildlife Sanctuary for widening/improvement of Pithoragarh-Tawaghat motor road km.62.00 (Jauljibi) to km.72.00-(Biniyagaon/Dungatoli), Uttarakhand.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. After discussion, the Committee recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:

- (i) A conservation plan for the musk deer would be prepared and implemented by the State Government in consultation with a scientific institute.
- (ii) For use of the forest land, approval under the F.C. Act will be obtained.
- (iii) NPV at the present rate will be deposited in the Compensatory Afforestation Fund alongwith an undertaking to pay additional amount as per directions of this Hon'ble Court.
- (iv) 5% of the project cost will be deposited in the Compensatory Afforestation Fund for undertaking conservation and protection works in the Askot Wildlife Sanctuary.
- (v) Labour camps will be established only in the locations approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (vi) No dumping of the debris will be allowed inside the sanctuary. The dumping will be done outside the sanctuary at the places approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (vii) The conditions imposed by the Chief Wildlife Warden for undertaking the works will be strictly complied with.
- (viii) The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified, before the Standing Committee of NBWL after completion of the project.

4.2 Fresh Proposals falling outside but in eco-sensitive zones of Protected Areas:

4.2(1) Proposal for construction of Funicular Trolley system and approach road at Malangad, Ambernath, Maharashtra.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee on the proposal. The Committee during discussion found that the approval of Matheran Eco-sensitive Monitoring Committee was not obtained, and, therefore, sought a clarification from the RE Division of the Ministry in this regard. The Committee decided to defer the proposal.

4.2(2) Proposal for development of 8 lane access controlled expressway on right bank of Upper Ganga Canal (UGC) from Sanauta Bridge (Bulandshahar) to near Purkazi (Distt. Muzaffarnagar) near Uttar Pradesh-Uttarakhand border.

The Member-Secretary briefed the Committee on the proposal. The Committee, after discussion decided to await the report of the Regional CCF (Central), Lucknow in this regard, before taking a final view in the matter.

4.2(3) Permission for setting up of Jaypee Super Cement Plant for 2.01 MTPA clinker production and 2.50 MTPA cement production located 2.1 kms from the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh.

The Member-Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. After discussion, the Committee decided that a team comprising a senior officer from MoEF and Ms. Prerna Bindra, Member, Standing Committee, NBWL would conduct the site inspection and submit a report to the Standing Committee.

4.2 (4) Naitwari Mori HEP (60 MW) in Uttarkashi District, Uttarakhand by M/s Satlej Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.

The Member-Secretary briefed the Committee on the proposal. After discussion, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that mitigatory measures as suggested by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in this regard, would be implemented by the State Government. WII would convey the mitigatory measures to the Government of Uttarakhand/Chief Wildlife Warden under intimation to the MoEF.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

Additional Agenda items:

5.1 Agenda items proposed by Ms. Prerna Bindra:

Ms. Prerna Bindra raised the following issues:

(a) The Committee may consider not to entertain proposals for development and other projects etc. within 10 Kms radius around Protected Areas till such time as Chief Wildlife Wardens submit proposal to the respective State Government for eco-sensitive zones around Protected Areas. **The Committee after a brief discussion decided that proposals for eco-sensitive zones would continue to be considered by the Standing Committee on a case to case basis and on the merits of the case.**

(b) The draft amendments to the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers(Recognition of Forest Rights) Act/Rules and the provisions of the Act suggested by the working group of the National Advisory Council be discussed by the NBWL. **The Committee decided that once the report is made available to the Ministry, it could be discussed.**

(c) More focus be given to Protected Areas other than Tiger Reserves. **It was informed that the Ministry has approached the Planning Commission for additional funds during the next financial year and for the 12th Five Year Plan to give more coverage to cover species other than tiger.**

(d) Comprehensive conservation plan for leopard in the wake of human-leopard conflict be initiated. **It was informed that the Ministry is already aware of the issue and has been taking appropriate measures to mitigate the problem. It was also informed that financial assistance was also being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme to the State Governments for mitigation of man-wildlife conflict.**

(e) MoEF may seek clarification from the Government of Bihar regarding the widening of road passing through Valmiki Tiger Reserve. **It was decided that the Wildlife Division would write to the State Government of Bihar and seek a factual report in the matter.**

5.2 Agenda item by Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh:

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh had sought the intervention of the Standing Committee in the matter of large-scale illegal felling inside the Mansinghdeo Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra. **The Committee was informed that Hon'ble Chairman had taken serious cognizance of the issue and already written to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra, requesting for immediate action in this regard.**

5.3 Agenda item proposed by Dr Asad Rahmani:

Dr Asad Rahmani had raised the following two issues:

- (a) Provide better protection to the Jeypore Reserved Forest in Assam. **The Standing Committee was informed that the Ministry would write to the State Government of Assam for considering declaration of the Jeypore Reserved Forest as a Wildlife Sanctuary or a National Park.**
- (b) Better protection to Dibru Saikhowa National Park: **The Committee was informed that the Ministry would write to the State Government of Assam for taking necessary action.**

5.4 Agenda item proposed by Dr A.J.T. Johnsingh:

Dr A.J.T. Johnsingh raised the following four issues:

(a) Provision for NBWL members to check/monitor in the field whether the recommendations/stipulations are properly implemented. **It was informed that the Regional Offices of MoEF are already undertaking the monitoring of conditions stipulated for all clearances granted under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. And if need be, the members of the Standing Committee could also take up monitoring on case to case basis in accordance with decision of the Standing Committee.**

(b) Eradication of invasive species like *Ipomea carnea*, *Cassia spectabilis*, *Opuntia dillenii* and *Prosopis juliflora* has been a serious problem in many Protected Areas of the country: **It was informed that the Ministry would write to the Chief Wildlife Wardens to include 'eradication of invasive species' as one of the items under the Annual Plan of Operation, for funding under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' of the MoEF.**

(c) Conversion of 0.22 air rifle into 0.22 rifle in certain parts of the country and using these for illegal killing of wildlife: **It was informed that the Ministry would take up this matter at the appropriate level both in the Central Government as well as in the State Government for necessary action.**

(d) Fencing along the road in Mollem National Park, Goa which was creating problems to wildlife: **It was intimated to the Committee that the Ministry would write to the State Government of Goa for necessary action.**

5.5. Agenda item proposed by Shri Biswajit Mohanty:

Shri Biswajit Mohanty, Member, NBWL had requested that the following two items be taken up for discussion during the meeting:

(a) The Committee may consider not to entertain proposals for development and other projects etc. within 10 Kms radius around Protected Areas till such time as Chief Wildlife Wardens submit proposal to the respective State Government for eco-sensitive zones around Protected Areas. **It was informed that this matter had already been discussed while considering the additional agenda items suggested by Ms. Prerna Bindra and the same decision would be applicable here also.**

(b) The transmission lines passing through the Protected Areas are causing serious threat to wild animals especially arboreal animals and also to elephants, and necessary action need to be taken to mitigate this problem: **It was informed that as per earlier discussion, guidelines for linear intrusions (roads and transmission lines) were to be prepared by Dr T.R. Shankar Raman and this aspect would be covered in these guidelines.**

5.6 Diversion of 7.605 ha of forest land for Six laning of Vadakkancherry-Trissur Section of NH-47 in Kerala- Construction of 2 tunnels in Kuthiran Hill in Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Member-Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal involved construction of 2 tunnels as part of the NH-47 in Kerala. It was also informed that the project was expected to facilitate free wildlife movement once the vehicular traffic was diverted through the proposed tunnels. It was also informed by the Member Secretary that the Chief Wildlife Warden had indicated that this was the best alternate option for vehicular movement with a view to reducing the impact of disturbance on wildlife habitat and ecology. After discussion, the Committee recommended the proposal subject to the condition that State Government would implement the mitigatory measures to be suggested by Dr A.J.T. Johnsingh and Dr T.R. Shankar Raman. The Committee also recommended following conditions to be implemented by the State Government:

- (i) Speed breakers with flourescent paint warning signages shall be constructed in areas where the wild animals usually cross the pathway. The places where such works shall be carried out will be decided by the concerned DFO.

- (ii) Storage, melting and mixing of coaltar should take place only on the diverted land.
- (iii) Any requirement of firewood for melting of coaltar by the user agency shall be met by purchasing it from the Forest Corporation or from market, and no firewood shall be collected from the nearby forest area.
- (iv) No labour camps shall be established inside the forest/sanctuary area.
- (v) No work shall be allowed between sunset to sunrise.
- (vi) No crushing/breaking of stone shall be allowed inside sanctuary/forest area.
- (vii) Construction debris will be disposed of outside the sanctuary area.
- (viii) Appropriate safeguard measures shall be taken to contain noise pollution.
- (ix) The stipulations above from serial no. 2 to 7 shall be valid while carrying out maintenance and repair work also.
- (x) The user agency shall also abide by any other conditions that may be prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (xi) The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified, before the Standing Committee of NBWL after completion of the project

The meeting thereafter, ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

ANNEXURE – 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS PRESENT IN THE 21ST MEETING OF STANDING
COMMITTEE OF NBWL HELD ON 24TH JANUARY 2011 AT PARYAVARAN
BHAWAN, NEW DELHI.

1	Shri Jairam Ramesh Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests	Chairman
2	Dr. P.J. Dilip Kumar, Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, MoEF	Member
3	Shri P.R. Sinha Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	Member
4	Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda	Member
5	Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh	Member
6	Ms. Prerna Bindra	Member
7	Dr. Asad Rahmani, Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai.	Member
8	Dr. T.R. Shankar Raman, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore	Member
9	Shri Kishore Rithe, Satpuda Foundation, Amravati.	Member
10	Shri Jagdish Kishwan Addl. Director General of Forests (Wildlife) & Director, Wildlife Preservation	Member- Secretary
11	Shri A.N. Prasad, Inspector General of Forests & Director, Project Elephant	Invitee
12	Shri A.K. Srivastava, Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife)	Invitee
13	Shri Pritam Chand PCCF / Chief Wildlife Warden, Jammu & Kashmir	Invitee
14	Shri B.K. Patnaik PCCF/ Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh	Invitee
15	Shri J.B. Jauhar PCCF /Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand	Invitee
16	Dr. H.S. Pabla PCCF/Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh	Invitee
17	Shri H.M. Bhatia	Invitee

	PCCF/Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan	
18	Shri Hitesh Malhotra PCCF/ Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh	Invitee
19	Shri D.C. Pant PCCF/Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra	Invitee
20	Shri R.V. Asari PCCF / Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat	Invitee
21	Shri S. Chandola PCCF/Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand	Invitee
22	Shri A.Mohanty CCF (WL), Sikkim	Invitee
23	Shri S.P. Yadav Deputy Inspector General (NTCA)	Invitee
24	Ms. Prakriti Srivastava Deputy Inspector General (Wildlife)	Invitee
25	Shri Prabhat Tyagi Joint Director (Wildlife)	Invitee
26	Shri Yogendra Pal Singh Deputy Director (Wildlife)	Invitee
