

**Ministry of Environment and Forests
Wildlife Division**

Summary records of the 22nd Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) held on 25th April 2011 in Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003.

The 22nd Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL was held on 25th April 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 of the meeting is at **Annexure-1**.

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 the listed agenda items.

Some members expressed their concern over the late receipt of a large number of proposals as additional agenda items as late as 22nd April 2011 with some even without proper maps, etc. According to them, late receipt of proposals does not offer enough time for them to peruse the documents, making it difficult to arrive at a rational view on the proposals. These members insisted to record their concerns appropriately in the minutes.

Some non-official members conveyed their concerns through e.mail in the next few days after the 22nd meeting of the Standing Committee was held. The contents of the communications received in this regard from Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh, Ms. Prerna Bindra, Dr Kaustubh Sharma and Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda are given in **Annexure-2**.

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 comments had been received from Ms. Prerna Bindra, Dr A.J.T. Johnsingh and Dr T.R. Shankar Raman. It was decided to append comments received from three members with the minutes of the 21st Meeting of the Standing Committee except comments of Ms. Prerna Bindra on the proposal of widening of existing 2 lane of NH-24 to 4 lane road from KM 86.00 to KM 93 passing through Hastinapur Sanctuary for site inspection, which the Member Secretary pointed out had been cleared by the Standing Committee without stipulation of a site inspection. The minutes of 21st Meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL were confirmed, thereafter. However, Ms. Prerna Bindra subsequently sent an e.mail reiterating her earlier position of a site inspection in respect of the proposal. Her comments are given at **Annexure-3**.

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 Hon'ble Chairman had visited the site and thereafter, had recommended the proposal subject to the condition that the State Government would look for alternate alignment, and apprise the Committee on the possibility of the alternate alignment. The State Government had, now informed the Committee that alternate route was not feasible in the instant case, and that they had requested that the Committee consider their proposal in its original form without change in the alignment proposed therein.

The Committee after discussion decided to recommend the proposal as proposed by the Government of Gujarat. However, Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda and Ms. Prerna Bindra expressed their concern regarding the possible impacts it would cause to the resident vulture population. Dr Rahmani suggested as one of the conditions of clearance that the State Government should effectively implement the ban on use of diclofenac in the State so as to protect the existing population of vultures in the State.

Ms. Prerna Bindra insisted that her not of dissent on the agenda items should be officially recorded. Following is the text of 'dissent' received from Ms. Prerna Bindra subsequently through e.mail.

"The ropeway will pass through a known breeding site of the long billed vulture (69 vultures in 2010, an increase from the last count of 41, suggesting an increase in numbers, as against a massive decline in the state, and indeed India.)

The report by Shri Divyabhanusinh and Dr Nita Shah placed before the committee on January 24th clearly states that the ropeway, if constructed, would lead to the local extinction of the long-billed vulture Gyps indicus in North Gujarat. The critically endangered long billed vulture has seen a collapse of nearly 99% of its population, and is categorised as Critically Endangered. Ironically, the vulture is part of MoEF's species recovery programme.

I record my dissent on the committee's decision to clear the above proposal."

2[4(B)(12)] Proposal for denotification from Radhanagri Sanctuary for Savarde minor irrigation project, Maharashtra.

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 Dr Asad Rahmani had conducted the site inspection, report whereof had been circulated amongst the members, and that the acceptance of conditions proposed by Dr Rahmani in his report was still awaited from the State Government. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra was requested to comment on the recommendations of Dr Rahmani which are reproduced below:

- “(a) A cumulative impact study, of all major and minor irrigation projects in and around Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary, should be conducted first to know the total ecological impact of all such schemes on ecology of the region and biodiversity therein.*
- (b) As the area falls under the Western Ghats, and the Government of India has constituted Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel under Prof. Madhav Gadgil, views of this Committee should be taken into consideration before final permission is given.*
- (c) No new proposal will be entertained in future which will impact directly or indirectly the Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary. The Irrigation Department has to give this assurance in writing.*
- (d) The whole area, including the Sanctuary and adjoining reserved forests and eco-sensitive areas, should be declared as an Ecological Sensitive Zone. On this, the views of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel should also be taken.*
- (e) In case the Expert Panel also approves this project, the Irrigation Department will follow the following conditions:*
- i) During construction, unskilled labourers of local area will be employed.*
 - ii) The Government of Maharashtra will see that benefits of this irrigation project will go only to the local farmers and outside farmers / developers shall not be allowed to purchase land or use the irrigation water for any other purpose than traditional farming.*
 - iii) The dam will be constructed within minimum time limits of 2 years with working period of 12 months or less (No work is possible during monsoon – 15 May to end October).*
 - iv) All debris will be removed by the irrigation department.*
 - v) The land tenure will remain with the Forest Department*
 - vi) No fishing will be allowed in the whole reservoir whether it falls within the Sanctuary boundary or outside.*
 - vii) It is to be ensured by the irrigation and forest department that the dam and the catchment area will not become a tourist spot. No boating will be allowed.*
 - viii) Appropriate plantations of local forest tree varieties to be undertaken in the vicinity of the dam to maintain the ecological harmony as near natural. The forest trees from the submergence under the dam should not be removed as it provides habitats for aquatic as well as terrestrial wildlife.*
 - ix) The Irrigation Department will pay the Forest Department for the conservation, restoration of the habitat and construction of a Forest Chonki in Savarde village.*
 - x) Land for land as compensation to forest land used for dam should be made available by the irrigation department in the Western Ghats region, preferably an adjoining forest area to the forest department before commencing the project. It is to be confirmed that the compliance of transfer of land to the forest in respect of the Dhamani Irrigation dam, on the border of Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary, is done.”*

However, the Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra informed that final consent from the State Government was yet to be issued and communicated to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra, also informed the Committee that the State Government had reservations on one of the conditions recommended by the Member of Committee, i.e, condition [(e)(ii)] above stipulating that only local people should be benefitted from the project and that outside farmers/developers should not be benefitted. He added that the State Government was in agreement with the rest of the conditions. In view of this, the Committee, after discussion, decided to recommend the proposal subject to all other conditions as stipulated by Dr Asad Rahmani in his site inspection report and with the modified condition [(e) (ii)] that the project should give first priority to meeting the water needs of the local people.

Ms. Purna Bindra, however, did not agree with the Members of the Committee in approving the project proposal, and desired her concern to be officially recorded. Text of her dissent as subsequently received through e.mail is reproduced below:

“I record my dissent on this clearance given the harmful ecological impacts, which were also discussed in the meeting. It is understood that the area to be submerged is under very good forest cover which will be destroyed irreplaceably.”

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 site inspection had now been conducted by Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh and Dr Rajesh Gopal, and the joint report had been submitted. It was also informed that the site inspection team had recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:

- “(i) The area needs to be reworked since the total area to be diverted from Dampa Tiger Reserve amounts to almost 1,500 ha instead of 69.26 ha as originally estimated. Hence, a detailed survey needs to be undertaken by the BSF along the entire 62 Kms stretch and involving representatives of the State Government/Dampa Tiger Reserve*
- (ii) The requisite forest clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 should be obtained only after the exact area is worked out.*
- (iii) The patrol road and the border outposts should be on the Bangladesh side of the three line fencing to ensure that the habitat of Dampa Tiger Reserve inside the fencing remains sacrosanct and free of disturbance.*
- (iv) The diverted forest land from Dampa Tiger Reserve should be compensated by adding an equivalent amount of land to the said tiger reserve elsewhere or to another Park or Sanctuary in Mizoram.*
- (v) Other mitigation measures and conditions (including no stone quarrying and dumping of debris) laid down by the State Government/Chief Wildlife warden/CEC would also need to be complied with.”*

The Chairman informed that he had written to the Hon’ble Minister of Home Affairs informing him of the recommendations of the site inspection team. He requested the officials of the Border Security Force, present in the meeting, to look into the recommendations of the site inspection team, and report compliance thereof to the Standing Committee.

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

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that Dr T.R. Shankar Raman, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore, had not yet submitted his report. The matter was deferred for consideration after Dr Shankar Raman would submit his report.

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

The agenda item was deferred.

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

The agenda item was deferred.

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 Wildlife Sanctuary, M. P.

The Member Secretary informed that during the last meeting of the Standing Committee, it was decided that Dr Shankar Raman and Shri Kishore Rithe would conduct a site inspection of all the 12 roads inside the Bagdara Sanctuary, and would place a report thereof before the Committee for its consideration. He informed that the report of the team had since been received and had been circulated amongst the members. He also informed that the site inspection team had recommended 10 out of 12 roads. Following two roads were not recommended by the Members' inspection team:

- (a) Naudihwa to Khairpur
- (b) Bichibagdara main road to Khamhardih

The Committee after discussion, decided to accept the recommendations of the site inspection team subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Adequate number of speed breakers at suitable distance for safety of wildlife shall be provided on all the roads.
- (ii) 5 % of the project cost corresponding to the project area falling within the Protected Area, would be paid by the user agency for the development of the sanctuary.
- (iii) The road development shall be carried out with utmost care so as to cause least impact on wildlife.
- (iv) It shall be ensured that no damage is caused to the wildlife and its habitats.
- (v) No realignment shall be permissible.
- (vi) For movement of runoff water and wildlife, minimum of one subway per 3 kms, and culverts at appropriate locations for maintaining continuity in flow of water shall be constructed.
- (vii) Speed limit on the stretch of road passing through the sanctuary should be restricted to 20 Kms/hr.

- (viii) All construction materials and other materials will be brought from outside the sanctuary and no digging for extraction of any kind of material will be done within the Protected Area.
- (ix) All the conditions laid down by Government of Madhya Pradesh or any agency shall be binding on the user agency.
- (x) No further works would be approved on the above roads.
- (xi) All vehicles will enter sanctuary area after sunrise and shall exit the sanctuary before sunset.
- (xii) Heavy vehicular traffic should be avoided as it may cause permanent disturbance inside the sanctuary.
- (xiii) NPV and compensatory afforestation fund charges will be paid by the user agency to the Chief Wildlife Warden as per norms.
- (xiv) The user agency should also abide by any other conditions that may be prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (xv) The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified, to 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 site inspections were conducted by Dr A.J.T Johnsingh and Ms. Perna Bindra separately and that they had submitted separate reports. It was also informed that while Dr Johnsingh had recommended all the three proposals, Ms. Bindra had recommended only two out of the three proposals, and did not recommend the proposal of water supply scheme from Mithuney to Rhenock.

The Committee had discussions on this issue and, thereafter, decided to recommend all the three proposals, as all the proposals related to drinking water supply, implementation whereof was considered essential in the larger public interest, and with a view to leveraging support and goodwill of the local community for wildlife conservation. It was also kept in view that the proposals of drinking water supply had minimum impact on the wildlife of the PAs.

Ms. Perna Bindra, however, e.mailed her dissent subsequently, which is reproduced below:

“The decision is to allow for all three proposals, as recommended by Dr A.J.T. Johnsingh, and with the conditions imposed as in the report submitted by Perna Singh Bindra.

I record my dissent on the decision to allow for 2[4.1 (18)], and request that my report of the site visit be placed on record.”

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

The Member Secretary informed that comments of National Tiger Conservation Authority were awaited in this matter. The Director, Wildlife Institute of India informed that details of GPS mapping of coal blocks falling within and outside the Tiger Corridor in the Mandla region, had been submitted to the National Tiger Conservation Authority. The Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority informed that he was studying the report.

The Chairman, therefore, suggested that the proposal could be recommended subject to the condition that the project area falling within the proposed /identified tiger corridors will be excluded. The Committee, after discussions on the suggestion, agreed to recommend the proposal with respect to the project sites falling outside the existing tiger corridors.

2[4.2(6)] Diversion of land for limestone mines located within 10 Kms of Son Gharial Crocodile Sanctuary with in 10 km for 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 the site inspection report of Dr Asad Rahmani had been circulated amongst the members. He informed that Dr Rahmani had recommended the proposal subject to certain conditions. The Committee, after discussions decided to clear the project along with the recommendations made in the site inspection report:

- “(i) The Government of Madhya Pradesh should declare Kebenjua and Bakura Hills as a protected area either in the form of a sanctuary or conservation reserve. This should be done prior to diversion of forest land for mining.*
- (ii) No further diversion of forest land will be allowed in future, once the existing mines are exhausted in 30 years.*
- (iii) The funds given for diversion of forest land will be strictly used for the benefit of forest, wildlife and local communities, particularly living in and around Bakura Hills.*
- (iv) The “Wildlife Conservation Plan” should be vetted by expert institutes like the Wildlife Institute of India.*
- (v) No silt from the Cement Plant should be allowed to be discharged in the Son River. The Jaypee Sidbi Cement Plant should opt for latest technology to reduce silt load to zero before the water from Marhwal Nallah is discharged into Son River.*
- (vi) Monitoring system for water quality of the Son River and Marhwal Nallah should be put in place and funds for short-term and long-term monitoring of water quality, particularly silt load should be made available by the Jaypee Sidbi Cement Plant.*
- (vii) Water quality monitoring information should be submitted every three months to the MoEF and the State Forest Department.*
- (viii) An independent monitoring body consisting of research NGOs, State Water Pollution Board, Forest Department and a local university should be set up to monitor the water quality. This should be funded by the Jaypee Sidbi Cement Plant.*

- (ix) *As Son Gharial Sanctuary is one of the few places in the world where critically endangered Gharial, Indian Skimmer and Endangered Softshell Turtle (Chitra indica) are found, Jaypee Sidhi Cement Plant should fund long-term monitoring of these three species. Long-term comprehensive management plan for these three species in Son Gharial Sanctuary should be prepared by experts comprising Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh, Dr R. K. Sharma of M.P. Forest Department, Mr Romulus Whitaker of Madras Crocodile Bank, Dr Sandeep Babera of WWF-India and others. The comprehensive management plan prepared by these experts should be funded by Jaypee Sidhi Cement Plant.*
- (x) *Monitoring of population of Gharial and other two species should be done during breeding and nesting seasons to get the population trends as well as an idea about the threats to the aforesaid species. This should be done in a comprehensive manner in the whole stretch of the River and any adverse condition for the propagation of the species should be reported immediately.*
- (xi) *Other discharges in terms of sewage or any effluent from other industrial or domestic sources should be monitored and checked every three months to find out solution to the of pollution, if detected.*

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 that the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) had constituted a Monitoring Committee, as per the decisions of the Standing Committee and no action was required at present by the Standing Committee or MoEF.

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

The Member Secretary informed that the study report on the water intake requirement of different projects from the Chambal river, had been received from the Director, Wildlife Institute of India and was circulated amongst the members. He informed that the report had recommended that no new projects could be allowed for taking water from the Chambal river as the present flow was inadequate and declining @3% every year.

After discussions, the Committee accepted the study report and decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that no new projects on Chambal river could be considered by the Committee in future.

Ms. Perna Bindra, however, was not in agreement with other Members of the Committee, and sent her note of dissent through e.mail subsequently. Contents of e.mail of Ms. Perna Bindra are reproduced below:

“The Chambal river harbours 85 per cent of the entire population of the critically endangered gharial and a high density of the national aquatic animal, the Gangetic dolphin per river km. The ‘Assessment of minimum water flow requirements of Chambal River in the context of Gharial (Gavialis gangeticus) and Gangetic Dolphin (Platanista gangetica) conservation’ conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India categorically states that any further withdrawal of water from Chambal river will seriously affect the gharial, the wildlife and other ecosystem service values of the river.

I record my dissent on the decision to give permission for the above proposal.”

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

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the RE Division of the Ministry of Environment and Forests had informed the Wildlife Division that the said proposal has been recommended by the Matheran Monitoring Committee with conditions.

The Committee, therefore, decided to accept the recommendations of the Matheran Monitoring Committee, and recommended the proposal accordingly.

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 informed that a report on the proposal was sought from the Regional CCF, Lucknow which was received only on the day of the meeting. The Committee desired that it would be imperative to first carefully examine the report of the Regional Office so that it could reach an informed decision on the subject thereafter. Since, the matter was under consideration in the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), it was decided that the report be first considered by the FAC and thereafter, placed for consideration of the Standing Committee.

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 informed that as per decision of the Committee in its 21st Meeting, site inspection was conducted by Ms. Prerna Bindra and Shri A.K. Srivastava, Inspector General of Forests (WL), Ministry of Environment and Forests. The report had been received and had been circulated amongst the members.

During the inspection, it was found that the proposal in so far as it related to the status (forest or non-forest) of land was sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a fact that was not brought to the notice of the Committee by the State Government. The State Government was, therefore, requested to clarify this position. The Committee decided to defer the matter till such time as the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court were received in the matter.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

3.1. Report of the Expert Committee on Conservation of Kolleru Lake Sanctuary (ECCKLS):

The Member-Secretary informed the Committee that during the 13th Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL held on 12th December 2008, Dr Asad Rahmani, Member, had raised the issue of reducing the area of Kolleru Lake Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh from +5' contours to +3' contours. Thereafter, Hon'ble MEF had visited the Kolleru Lake Sanctuary on 28th February 2010 and had interacted with most stakeholders in the matter. The issue was also discussed in the Standing Committee of NBWL in its meeting held on 12th April 2010, wherein it

was decided to constitute an Expert Committee to study the issue in greater detail and to recommend to the Government the merits and the demerits of the proposal of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly for reduction of area of the Sanctuary by way of decrease in the contour from +5' to +3'. The Ministry had, accordingly, constituted the Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr Azeez, Director, SACON on 29th April 2010.

The Member Secretary also informed that the report of the ECCKLS had been received in the Ministry and had also been circulated to the Members of the Standing Committee of NBWL.

Thereafter, the Chairman requested Dr Azeez, Chairman, ECCKLS, to make a presentation on its findings. After the detailed presentation by Dr Azeez, the Committee discussed the recommendations suggested by the ECCKLS. The Standing Committee, unanimously applauded the outstanding work done by the ECCKLS in surveying the area and bringing out a comprehensive report on the complex issue. Expressing its appreciation to the ECCKLS members, the Standing Committee took following decisions on the subject:

- (i) The recommendations of the ECCKLS were accepted in toto.
- (ii) It was not advisable to reduce the area of the Sanctuary from +5' contours to +3' contours as the reduction of the sanctuary area was not a viable solution for the socio-economic and ecological issues confronting the stakeholders including local communities dependent on the Kolleru Lake.
- (iii) The Chairman of the Standing Committee would as appropriate, take forward the report to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for its implementation.
- (iv) Formulation of an appropriate R&R policy would need to be taken up by the State Government immediately.
- (v) Estimates of adequate compensation to the affected people would form part of the R&R policy, and the amount required on this count would be budgeted and provided by the State Government.

3.2 Delegation of the powers of the State Board for Wildlife to the Chairman in case of strategic border roads.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that during the meeting of the Empowered Committee on Border Infrastructure (ECBI) held under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary, one of the decisions required the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) to examine the possibility of delegation of powers of State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) to its Chairman/the Minister concerned in the case of strategic border roads.

After discussions, the Committee decided that it would not be advisable to agree to this suggestion as it would lead to dilution of mandate of the SBWL.

3.3 Agenda items proposed by Shri Biswajit Mohanty, Member, National Board for Wildlife.

The Committee decided to defer the agenda for consideration in its next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

4.1 Fresh Proposals for diversion of forest land of National Parks and Sanctuaries.

4.1 (1) Permission for repairing and maintenance work on existing width of 7.00 km National Highway road No.221 (Jagdalpur-Sukma-Konta) in Kanger Valley National Park, Chhattisgarh.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the instant proposal was for repairing and maintenance work on existing width of 7.00 km National Highway road No. 221 (Jagdalpur-Sukma-Konta) in Kanger Valley National Park. The Chief Wildlife Warden had recommended the proposal subject to certain conditions.

After discussions, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal with the following conditions:

- (i) No blasting would be permitted to be carried out for the purpose of repair and maintenance of the said road.
- (ii) No new area will be used for the repair/maintenance.
- (iii) No tree felling shall be carried out.
- (iv) 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/Wildlife Warden.
- (v) Storage, melting and mixing of coaltar should take place only on the already 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.
- (vi) No labour camps shall be established inside the forest/sanctuary area.
- (vii) No work shall be allowed between sunset to sunrise.
- (viii) No crushing/breaking of stone shall be allowed inside sanctuary/forest area.
- (ix) Construction debris will be disposed of outside the sanctuary area.
- (x) Appropriate measures shall be taken to contain noise pollution.
- (xi) The user agency shall also abide by any other conditions that may be prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (xii) The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified to the Standing Committee of NBWL after completion of the project.

4.1 (2) Diversion of 79.474 ha of forest land in Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary and Wild Ass Sanctuary for Construction of Gaduli to Hajipir-Odma-Khavda-Kunriya-Dholavira-Maovana-Gadakbet-Santalpur Road (S.H. Road) Gujarat.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal was for construction of Gaduli to Hajipir-Odm-Khavda-Kunriya- Dholavira-Maovana-Gadakbet- Santalpur Road (S.H. Road) passing through the Kutch Desert and the Wild Ass Sanctuaries. The Principal Secretary, Environment and Forests, Government of Gujarat informed that this project was be taken up as per the decision of the Planning Commission for development of border roads to meet security needs of the Border Security Force (BSF).

After discussion, the Committee decided that the site be inspected by Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh, Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda and Dr Asad Rahmani and the decision will subsequently be taken by the Standing Committee based on their report.

4.1 (3) Proposal for denotification of entire area of Trikuta Wildlife Sanctuary (31.40 Sq. Kms), Jammu and Kashmir.

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal was to denotify the entire Trikuta Sanctuary in Jammu and Kashmir. He also informed that the State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden had recommended the proposal.

The Committee recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The State Government will ascertain the extent of area of the Sanctuary sought to be used for non forestry purposes based on a detailed Master Plan, and pay NPV as per extant orders for the forest land to be diverted.
- (ii) Twice or more area than that of the Sanctuary will be identified and notified simultaneously as a sanctuary area while denotifying the present Sanctuary.
- (iii) 5 % of the project cost corresponding to the project area falling within the Protected Area, would be paid by the user agency for the development of the sanctuary.

Ms. Perna Bindra raised her concern on the denotification of the Sanctuary and later e.mailed her dissent to be recorded officially. Text of her e-mail is reproduced below:

“This denotification sets up a very bad precedent of denotifying entire sanctuaries. It has been decided this in lieu of the denotification another PA should be declared. As pointed out by Dr MK Ranjitsinh, such a site - double the area of the current notification - should be identified with a proper biodiversity survey, and put before the Board and first notified as a PA before any denotification of Trikuta Wildlife Sanctuary.”

4.1 (4) Proposal for diversion of 7.005 ha of protected land from Compartment No.5/ of Bahu Conservation Reserve in favour of Revenue Department, Jammu and Kashmir.

The Member-Secretary informed that the proposal was for diversion of 7.005 ha of protected land from Compartment No.5 of Bahu Conservation Reserve in favour of Revenue Department for leasing to the Army, in lieu of the Army land acquired by the Revenue Department for expansion of Jammu airport. He also informed that the State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife warden had recommended the proposal.

After discussions, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The Forest Department in association with the Wildlife Protection Department will identify an alternate equal or double the area which is proposed to be denotified from the Bahu Conservation reserve either in the vicinity of the Conservation Reserve or any other area which is rich in wildlife.

- (ii) The land so selected will be notified as a Wildlife Sanctuary and the said area will be handed over to the Wildlife Department for management.
- (iii) The Revenue Department will pay NPV amounting to Rs. 230.11 lakhs to the Wildlife Department.
- (iv) The Revenue Department will pay 5% of the final project cost as per the stipulations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to the Wildlife Department before release of land in its favour

Ms. Prerna Bindra did not agree to the decision, and e-mailed her dissent later which is reproduced below:

“The agreement and assurance of transferring revenue land to the army was made by the revenue department, and from the information given there seems to be no role of the forest department while giving this assurance. It was the revenue department which acquired the army land. In such circumstances it would be highly inappropriate for a Protected Area to be diverted; it will set a wrong precedent that part of a Conservation Reserve is diverted in order to meet the assurances given by the revenue department.”

4.1 (5) Diversion of 19.503 ha of forest land from Rajaji National Park for the use of Shri Raghavendra Sewashram Samiti, Uttarakhand.

The Member Secretary informed that the State of Uttarakhand had submitted this proposal for consideration of the Committee. However, the proposal had earlier been rejected by the Standing Committee of Indian Board for Wildlife and Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife. Hon'ble Supreme Court had also not agreed to the proposal.

The Chairman desired that the proposals which had earlier been rejected by the Standing Committee/Court should not be included in the agenda, unless any additional information or new facts had been provided by the State Government in respect of the proposal.

4.2 Proposal for taking up activities outside but within 10 Kms from the boundary of the Protected Areas

4.2 (1) Proposal for setting up Captive Thermal Power Plant (4x60MW) with 1 MTPA Cement Grinding Unit and 1 MTPA Coal Washery-proposal within 1.5 Kms from boundary of Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh.

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal was related to setting up of captive thermal power plant with 1 MTPA cement grinding unit and 1 MTPA coal washery unit which was located 1.5 Kms away from the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Committee after discussion decided that the Wildlife Institute of India would undertake an impact assessment study of the proposed project on the biodiversity of Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary and submit a report. A decision would, thereafter be taken based on the findings of the study report.

Ms. Prerna Bindra had e-mailed her dissent later which is reproduced below:

“The report for the site visit for M/s Jaypee Super Cement Plant from clinker production 2.01 MTPA to 2.50 MTPA in Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh (for which my report has been submitted) records that the JP Associates flouted the Forest Conservation Act and ignored the directions of the honourable Apex court, the directions of the CEC and the directions of the regional office (Central) of the MoEF.

It came to our notice that construction has already begun for the Captive Thermal Power Plant (4x60MW) with 1 MTPA Cement Grinding Unit and 1 MTPA Coal Washery, again without the mandatory clearance. A clarification and information has been sought from the concerned DFO. Also in light of the fact that a related matter of the JP Super Cement plant is subjudice (with information concealed from the Standing Committee at the time of submitting the proposal), it is judicious that this proposal be very carefully examined, before any decision is taken.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

After the main agenda items were discussed, following proposals that had been received were taken up for discussion as additional agenda items. Many non-official members expressed their concern on taking up additional agenda items as they were not fully prepared to discuss the items.

5.1 Diversion of 21.132 ha of forest land from Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary for widening of existing lane of 4/6 laning of NH-33 from Barhi to Hazaribagh in the State of Jharkhand under NHDP Phase III.

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal was for 4/6 laning of NH-33 from Barhi to Hazaribagh in the State of Jharkhand and passed through the Hazaribagh Sanctuary. It was also informed that the State Board for Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden had recommended the proposal. It was decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for the use of forest land shall be obtained.
- (ii) The construction of the widening of NH-33 in sanctuary area will be undertaken only after the project is cleared by the Standing Committee of the NBWL and the apex court and also after getting approval under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (iii) 5% of the estimated total project cost will be deposited in the compensatory afforestation fund for undertaking construction and protection works in the wildlife sanctuary.
- (iv) The NHAI will carry out a study through a reputed agency on the likely potential man-animal conflict which may arise following the construction of road and to recommend suitable remedial measures. Mitigation measures thus suggested would be implemented by the State Forest Department at project cost.
- (v) A Monitoring Committee headed by the Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Circle Ranchi, would be set up to monitor the construction of structures in the sanctuary area.
- (vi) The area diverted in the sanctuary will not be used for constructing toll naka, building etc. or any non forestry activities other than proposed widening work of the road.

- (vii) The tree felling will be done under the strict supervision and guidance of the Forest Department. The tree felling will be kept at the barest minimum possible.
- (viii) No night camping will be allowed in the sanctuary area.
- (ix) The project proponent would construct at least three flyovers of 6 meters height and 700 meters length preferably at an interval of 1.5 kms. so as to provide connectivity for movement of wildlife. On the completion of these flyovers, vehicular traffic on the existing strips of the road will be completely stopped.
- (x) The project proponents would carry out avenue plantation along both sides and in the middle of the national highway. They should also bear the cost of block plantation of five times of trees which are going to be felled during the construction of the road.
- (xi) Speed breakers at regular interval of 1.5 k.m-2 k.m. shall be provided.
- (xii) Signboards having information regarding regulation of the speed and prohibition of blowing of horn must be displayed.
- (xiii) The length of the road passing through wildlife sanctuary is approx 8 km. The NHAI should provide for 8 water harvesting structures in the sanctuary on each side of the road. The site and estimate of the water harvesting structures will be provided by the Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Division, Hazaribagh. The work will also be executed by the Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Division Hazaribagh.
- (xiii) As the Management of the sanctuary requires constant visits of officers and frontline staff, hence the NHAI will not charge any toll-tax from the departmental vehicles.
- (xiv) As per the decision taken by the State Wildlife Board in its meeting held on 07.10.2010, area of Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary must be extended by adding 10 times of the proposed diversion (i.e.21.112 ha) preferably including the area of Katkamsandi block adjacent to sanctuary boundary.

5.2 Construction and Upgradation of 2.5 km. road from Khatola to Kisli, M.P.

5.3 Construction and Upgradation of 2.6 km Road from 14 km off T-2 to Mukki, M.P.

5.4 Construction and Upgradation of 5.13 km Road from Rajomal to Manoharpur, M.P.

5.5 Construction of Stop dam cum Causeway on Rehti- Tendukheda Road at Km 82/2, M.P.

5.6 Construction and Upgradation of 6 km Tendukheda- Taradehi- Sarra to Kudpura Approach Road, M.P.

5.7 Approach road from Somkheda to Hinouti – Ramgarh, M.P.

5.8 Construction and Upgradation of 4.20 km of Bamhori to Kotkheda Road, M.P.

5.9 Construction of MDR to Mokla Road, M.P.

5.10 Construction of 14.20 km road for NH-12, 7 km. to Malkuhi Jhilpani Dhana, M.P.

5.11 Construction of 4.73 km Somkheda-Suhela Approach Road, M.P.

5.12 Upgradation of 8.55 km road from Bineka to Borpani, M.P.

5.13 Widening of State Highway 59 from Indore to Gujrat Border, M.P.

5.14 Upgradation of Bhiapur to Amchhekala Dam Road, M.P.

The Member Secretary informed that the Government of Madhya Pradesh had forwarded 13 proposals pertaining to construction/repair of roads passing through various Sanctuaries.

Standing Committee while according 'in principle' approval for construction/upgradation of above mentioned 13 roads desired that Chief Wildlife Warden would submit details separately about the (i) roads that are to be newly constructed, (ii) roads that are to be upgraded, (iii) roads that are to be repaired, and (iv) roads that are already tarred or otherwise. A final view on individual proposal would be taken on receipt of the information by the Chairman, Standing Committee in consultation with Members of the Committee.

5.15 Maintenance and Repair of roads passing through National Parks/Sanctuaries in Madhya Pradesh.

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal pertains to repair/maintenance of existing National Highway roads passing through various National Parks and Sanctuaries. He also informed that the proposal had been recommended by the State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden. The proposal was recommended by the Committee subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Adequate number of speed breakers at suitable distance for safety of wildlife shall be provided on all the roads.
- (ii) 5 % of the project cost corresponding to the project area falling within the Protected Areas would be paid by the user agency for the development of the concerned National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary.
- (iii) The road development shall be carried out with utmost care so as to cause least impact on wildlife.
- (iv) It shall be ensured that no damage is caused to the wildlife and its habitats.
- (v) No realignment shall be permissible.
- (vi) For movement of runoff water and wildlife, minimum of one subway per 3 kms and culverts at appropriate distances for maintaining continuity of water flow shall be constructed by the user agency.
- (vii) Speed limit for the stretch of road passing through the National Park/Sanctuary should be restricted to 20 Kms/hr.
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) All the conditions laid down by Government of Madhya Pradesh or any agency shall be binding on the user agency.
- (x) No other works would be approved on the above roads.
- (xi) All vehicles will enter sanctuary area after sunrise and shall exit the sanctuary before sunset.
- (xii) Heavy vehicular traffic should be avoided as it may cause permanent disturbance inside the sanctuary.
- (xiii) NPV and compensatory afforestation fund charges will be paid by the user agency to the Chief Wildlife Warden as per norms.
- (xiv) The user agency should also abide by any other conditions that may be prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

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

5.16 Repair of Sakhya Sagar dam in Madhav National Park, M.P.

The Member-Secretary informed that the proposal was for the repair of the dam on Sakhya Sagar Reservoir, which provides drinking water to the Shivpuri city. It was also informed that the State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden had recommended the proposal. In view of the urgency of repairing the dam, the proposal was recommended by the Committee subject to following conditions:

- (i) No trees shall be cut from the area.
- (ii) No construction material such as earth, stones etc. will be collected from the forest area for the repair works.
- (iii) The height of the dam, sluice, surplus weirs etc shall not be increased.
- (iv) Sufficient water shall be left as reserve in the dam for the use by the wildlife of the area throughout the season.
- (v) The repair work should be allowed to be carried out only during day time and that also between sunrise and sunset with minimal disturbances.
- (vi) Work may be got executed under the presence of sufficient staff of the forest department on deputation as decided by Forest Department, at the cost of user agency.

5.17 Laying of 33 KV electric line for supplying water from Madikheda Dam to Shivpuri, M.P.

The Member Secretary informed that the said proposal involves laying of electric line for supply of water from the Madikheda dam to Shivpuri. The proposal has the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife and that of the Chief Wildlife Warden.

The proposal was recommended subject to the condition that adequate protection would be provided to the arboreal animals. It would also be ensured that insulated cables are used for laying the transmission lines so as to cause minimum damage to wildlife.

5.18 Permission for Kanera Lift Irrigation and Aisah Lift Irrigation, M.P.

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal is for two lift irrigation projects in Chambal Sanctuary for the extraction of 16.98 cusec water from the Chambal river.

In view of the findings of the study by the Wildlife Institute of India regarding intake of water from the Chambal river, the Committee did not recommend the proposal.

5.19 Supply of water to Chitrangi Power Pvt. Ltd. from Son Gharial Sanctuary, M.P.

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal was for drawing sub-surface water from the Son Gharial Sanctuary.

In view of the possible adverse impact on the habitat of Gharial in the Sanctuary, the proposal was not recommended by the Committee.

5.20 Budgaona (Extension) Limestone Mines in Sidhi Distt, M.P.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal was for taking up mining activity 8-9 Kms away from the boundary of Son Gharial Sanctuary. The State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden had recommended the proposal. The proposal was recommended subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The silt load from the cement factory will be checked before the factory discharge joins the Son river.
- (ii) Arrangements will be made for monitoring of the quality of water beyond Madhwal Nallah.
- (iii) An effluent treatment plant be installed at the factory site, and it has to be ensured that untreated effluent does not reach the river.
- (iv) An Environment Management Plan will be prepared after EIA and its implementation ensured by the user agency.

5.21 Installation of ropeway in Ralamandal Sanctuary, M.P.

The Member-Secretary informed the Committee that this proposal was pertaining to installation of a ropeway in the Ralamandal Sanctuary. The State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden had recommended the proposal. The committee also recommended the proposal with standard conditions.

5.22 Increasing the Capacity of Baghwar (Sidhi) Cement Factory and Construction of 2x60 MW Captive Power Plant, M.P.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that this proposal was for increasing the Capacity of Baghwar (Sidhi) Cement Factory and Construction of 2x60 MW Captive Power Plant. It was also informed that the proposed site was 9 Kms from the Son Gharial Sanctuary. The proposal was recommended by the Committee with standard conditions.

5.23 Felling of 75 trees under OHE work at Berkheda Railway station, Madhya Pradesh.

The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) who was representing the Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh informed the Committee that the State Government had withdrawn the proposal.

5.24 Upgradation of existing 2 lane National highway 12A from km. 185/600 to 192/400, M.P.

The Member Secretary informed that this proposal was for upgradation of existing 2 lane National Highway passing through the Kanha Tiger Reserve. The proposal was recommended by the Committee subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Adequate number of speed breakers at suitable distance for safety of wildlife shall be provided on all the roads.
- (ii) 5 % of the project cost corresponding to the area falling within the Protected Area would be paid by the user agency for the development of the concerned National Park.
- (iii) The road development shall be carried out with utmost care so as to cause least impact on wildlife.
- (iv) It shall be ensured that no damage is caused to the wildlife and its habitats.
- (v) No realignment shall be permissible.
- (vi) For movement of runoff water and wildlife, minimum of one subway per 3 kms, and culverts at appropriate distances for maintaining continuity of water flow shall be constructed by the user agency.
- (vii) Speed limit for the stretch of road passing through the National Park should be restricted to 20 Kms/hr.
- (viii) All construction material and other material will be brought from outside the National Park and no digging for extraction material will be done in the Protected Area.
- (ix) All the conditions laid down by Government of Madhya Pradesh or any agency shall be binding on the user agency.
- (x) No other works would be approved on the above roads.
- (xi) All vehicles will enter sanctuary area after sunrise and shall exit the National Park before sunset.
- (xii) Heavy vehicular traffic should be avoided as it may cause permanent disturbance inside the National Park.
- (xiii) NPV and compensatory afforestation fund charges will be paid by the user agency to the Chief Wildlife Warden as per norms.
- (xiv) The user agency should also abide by any other conditions that may be prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (xv) The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified, to the Standing Committee of NBWL after completion of the project.

5.25 Widening and upgradation of National Highway No. 69 from Obaidullahganj to Betul, M.P.

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal was for upgradation of National Highway no. 69 passing through the Ratapani Sanctuary.

The Committee decided to defer this proposal for consideration in its next meeting.

5.26 Diversion of 25.976 ha. forest land for upper Ghoghra Reservoir, M.P.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal was within 10 Kms from the boundaries of Kheoni Sanctuary. It was also informed that the proposal had the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden. The proposal was recommended by the Standing Committee with standard conditions.

5.27 Permission for laying of 16 inch dia underground gas pipeline from Kota to Bhilwara through Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal was for laying gas pipeline through the Chambal Sanctuary in Rajasthan.

The proposal was recommended by the Committee subject to the following conditions:

- (i) No structure, whatsoever shall be erected in the sanctuary area.
- (ii) No felling of trees and removal of vegetation shall be carried out during installation of pipe line.
- (iii) 5% of the project cost corresponding to protect area falling in sanctuary shall be provided by the user agency for the development of sanctuary.
- (iv) Work will be done during the day time only.
- (v) User agency should use latest technology in laying the pipeline under the river.
- (vi) No harm will be caused to wild life during construction.

5.28 Permission for 33 KV Anadara-Mount Abu electric transmission line passing through Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that this proposal was for laying 33 KV transmission line passing through the Mount Abu Sanctuary. It was also informed that the proposal had been recommended by the State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden.

The proposal was recommended by the Committee subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Approval under the FC Act will be obtained before commencing work.
- (ii) The user agency shall deposit 5% of the revised project cost besides paying the NPV and C.A. at the present rate alongwith an undertaking to pay additional NPV as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- (iii) No labour camps will be established in the sanctuary for the project work.
- (iv) The project work particularly the lopping and felling of the trees will be undertaken under the supervision of the officials of the Forest Department.
- (v) No disturbance to wildlife will be caused during erection of transmission line.
- (vi) Insulated cables shall be used for laying the transmission line.

5.29 Permission for laying of underground water supply pipeline of 2100 millimeter diameter through Chambal-Bhilwara Project through Jawaharsagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that this proposal was for laying underground water supply pipeline through Jawaharsagar Sanctuary. It was also informed that the proposal had been recommended by the State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden.

The proposal was recommended by the Committee subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The user agency shall deposit 5% of the project cost for the better management of the sanctuary area.
- (ii) No labour camps will be established in the sanctuary for the project work.
- (iii) The project work, particularly the lopping and felling of the trees will be undertaken under the supervision of the officials of the Forest Department.
- (iv) At least two water points will be constructed, in forest block Peermagra in consultation with DCF (Wildlife) Kota by user agency, to provide drinking water to wild animals. The regular water supply for the purpose will be made by user agency free of cost 24 hours.
- (v) No blasting will be carried out in the sanctuary area.
- (vi) No disturbance / obstacle will be created to obstruct movement of wildlife during laying of pipeline, and maintenance.
- (vii) The State Government will ensure that water would be used for the bonafide domestic use of the people, and will not be put to any commercial use.

5.30 Permission for restoration of existing earthen dam of Orai irrigation project, District Chittorgarh, in Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that this proposal was for restoration of earthen dam in Bassi Sanctuary. The proposal had been recommended by the State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden.

The proposal was recommended by the Committee subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Keeping in view the fact that the lake created by the dam provides breeding ground for Saras Crane, strengthening of the old structure has become essential to maintain the lake and enhance its life span and is also useful for wildlife, no cost should be charged from user agency.
- (ii) The height of the dam will not be increased.
- (iii) No night camping should be allowed in sanctuary area during the restoration work by labour force.
- (iv) The restoration work will be done on existing dam during day time only and no disturbance will be caused to wildlife.
- (v) The water level will remain unchanged.
- (vi) No tree cutting and soil digging will be done during construction work.

5.31 Permission for proposed dam on the Parvan river for major irrigation and drinking water supply project just outside Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that this proposal was for construction of dam involving Shergarh Sanctuary. The proposal had been recommended by the State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden.

The proposal was recommended by the Committee subject to the following conditions:

- (i) 25 Cusecs water round the year will be released free of cost through the dam downstream by an auto built system, free from man management.
- (ii) The dam construction work will be done during the day time only.
- (iii) One forest chowki will be constructed by project authority at the dam site in consultation with DFO Baran, which will be used by forest staff for protection purposes.
- (iv) No night camping shall be allowed at the site.
- (v) The Agency would also provide one extra pipeline for providing water for the wildlife in the area in consultation with CCF (Wildlife) Kota.
- (vi) All material for construction will be brought from outside the forest / Sanctuary area.
- (vii) User agency will deposit 5% of the project cost for the maintenance and protection of P.A.

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh expressed his concern on the large number of trees involved in the construction of project, and subsequently e-mailed his dissent. Contents of his e-mail are reproduced below:

“The Parvan major irrigation project, Rajasthan, which will submerge 81.67 sq.km. of the Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary and what is more, will result in the destruction of approximately 186443 trees, in a tree deficit State like Rajasthan. Furthermore, even though 25cusecs of water is proposed to be continuously released into the Chambal from the proposed dam, this project will result in a major diversion of water from the Chambal, which has already been identified as deficient in water flow to support the last viable populations of the endangered Gharial and the Dolphin, in the April 2011 report prepared by the Wildlife Institute of India at the instance of the MoEF. The report specifically recommends that no further diversion of water from the Chambal should take place if the future survival of the endangered aquatic species mentioned above, is to be secured. There is also no EIA of the project, with regard to the impact upon the aquatic life and ecology of the downstream Jawahar Sagar Sanctuary, Rana Pratap Sagar Sanctuary and the National Chambal Sanctuary”.

5.32 Diversion of 16.09 ha of forest land from Keladevi Wildlife Sanctuary for Dohari Minor Irrigation Project by Water Resource Department, Distt. Karauli, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed that this proposal was for construction of the Dohari minor irrigation project involving Keladevi Sanctuary. It was also informed that the said proposal was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its meeting held on 12th April 2010. However, as the proposal did not have the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife, it was deferred. Now the State Government had submitted the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife. The Chief Wildlife Warden had also recommended the proposal.

The proposal was recommended by the Committee subject to the following conditions:

- (i) User agency shall be advised to keep 25% of total storage as dead storage for wildlife.
- (ii) Irrigation will not be done in sanctuary boundary.
- (iii) No night camping will be allowed during the project work for labour force.

5.33 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 Distt. Jhalawar, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed that this proposal was for construction of gravel road through Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary. It was also informed that the said proposal was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its meeting held on 12th April 2010. However, as the proposal did not have the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife, it was deferred. Now the State Government had submitted the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife. The Chief Wildlife Warden had also recommended the proposal.

The proposal was recommended by the Committee subject to the following conditions:

- (i) 5 % of the project cost for the corresponding project area falling within the Sanctuary would be paid by the user agency for the development of the Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary
- (ii) No black topping of the above road would be done.
- (iii) The road development shall be carried out with utmost care so as to cause least impact on wildlife.
- (iv) It shall be ensured that no damage is caused to the wildlife and the Sanctuary.
- (v) No realignment shall be permissible.
- (vi) For movement of runoff water and wildlife, minimum of one subway per 3 kms, and culverts at appropriate distances for maintaining continuity of water shall be constructed by the user agency.
- (vii) There should be provision of speed breakers at every 400 meters of the road inside the sanctuary so that the speed is regulated within the sanctuary to avoid accidental death of wild animals.
- (viii) Speed limit on the stretch of road passing through the Sanctuary should be restricted to 20 Kms/hr.
- (ix) 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.
- (x) All the conditions laid down by Government of Rajasthan or any agency shall be binding on the user agency.
- (xi) No further works would be approved on the above road.
- (xii) All vehicles will enter sanctuary area after sunrise and shall exit the sanctuary before sunset.
- (xiii) Heavy vehicular traffic should be avoided as it may cause permanent disturbance inside the sanctuary.
- (xiv) NPV and Compensatory Afforestation Fund charges will be paid by the user agency to the Chief Wildlife Warden as per norms.
- (xv) The user agency should also abide by any other conditions that may be prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (xvi) The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified, to the Standing Committee of NBWL after completion of the project.

5.34 Proposal for clearance of construction of road from Girab to Kubariya passing through Desert National Park within, PWD circle, Barmer, Rajasthan.

5.35 Diversion of forest land in Desert National Park for construction of road Harsani Girab Road km 15 to Ugeri PWD circle, Barmer, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed that the two proposals were for construction of gravel road passing through Desert National Park Sanctuary. It was also informed that the said proposals were considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its meeting held on 12th April 2010. However, as the proposals did not have the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife, these were deferred. Now the State Government had submitted the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife. The Chief Wildlife Warden had also recommended the proposals.

The proposals were recommended by the Committee subject to the following conditions:

- (i) 5 % of the project cost for the corresponding project area falling within the Sanctuary would be paid by the user agency for the development of the Desert National Park Wildlife Sanctuary
- (ii) No black topping of the above road would be done.
- (iii) The road development shall be carried out with utmost care so as to cause least impact on wildlife.
- (iv) It shall be ensured that no damage is caused to the wildlife and the Sanctuary.
- (v) No realignment shall be permissible.
- (vi) For movement of runoff water and wildlife, minimum of one subway per 3 kms, and culverts at appropriate distances for maintaining continuity of water shall be constructed by the user agency.
- (vii) There should be provision of speed breakers at every 400 meters of the road inside the sanctuary so that the speed is regulated within the sanctuary to avoid accidental death of wild animals.
- (viii) Speed limit on the stretch of road passing through the Sanctuary should be restricted to 20 Kms/hr.
- (ix) 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.
- (x) All the conditions laid down by Government of Rajasthan or any agency shall be binding on the user agency.
- (xi) No further works would be approved on the above road.
- (xii) All vehicles will enter sanctuary area after sunrise and shall exit the sanctuary before sunset.
- (xiii) Heavy vehicular traffic should be avoided as it may cause permanent disturbance inside the sanctuary.
- (xiv) NPV and Compensatory Afforestation Fund charges will be paid by the user agency to the Chief Wildlife Warden as per norms.
- (xv) The user agency should also abide by any other conditions that may be prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (xvi) The Chief Wildlife Warden would submit a compliance report on the implementation of the conditions specified, to the Standing Committee of NBWL after completion of the project.

5.36 Proposal for laying optical fibre cable in Sawai Mansingh Wildlife Sanctuary by Idea Cellular Limited.

The Member Secretary informed that this proposal was for laying of optical fibre cable through Sawai Mansingh Sanctuary. It was also informed that the said proposal was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its meeting held on 12th April 2010. However, as the proposal did not have the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife, it was deferred. Now the State Government had submitted the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife. The Chief Wildlife Warden had also recommended the proposal.

The proposal was recommended by the Committee subject to the following conditions:

- (i) No cutting of trees will be allowed.
- (ii) No night camping should be allowed by labour force during laying of OFC in sanctuary area.
- (iii) Work will be done during day time only.
- (iv) Appropriate protection measures for trees will be provided at user agency's cost.
- (v) No disturbance to wildlife and its habitat will be caused.

5.37 Laying of 16"/8" diameter gas pipeline along the NH passing through Rajaji National Park.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal was for laying gas pipeline in the existing ROW of the NH-58 which involves 0.483 ha. of forest area. No additional diversion was required for laying this pipeline. The proposal had also been recommended by the Chief Wildlife Warden with the condition that GAIL would provide resources to the tune of Rs. 50,000 per annum to the Park to keep the Chilla-Motichur corridor free of weeds and other obstacles to facilitate easy movement of animals over the corridor.

The proposal was recommended by the Committee subject to the conditions stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

5.38 Collection of minor minerals from river bed-Song-1, district Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

5.39 Collection of minor minerals from river bed-Song-2, district Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the above two proposals pertained to collection of minor minerals from the river bed Song-1 and Song-2 falling within the Shivalik Elephant Reserve. The proposal was recommended subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Collection of RBM will be restricted between sunrise and sunset.
- (ii) Explosives will not be used for extraction of RBM.
- (iii) No permanent structures will be allowed to be constructed.
- (iv) The employed labour force will be provided fuelwood by the project proponent to avoid use of adjoining forests by them for fuelwood extraction/collection.

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

Annexure-1

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE 22ND MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE OF
NBWL HELD ON 25TH APRIL 2011**

1	Shri Jairam Ramesh Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests	Chairman
2	Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh	Member
3	Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda	Member
4	Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh	Member
5	Ms. Purna Bindra	Member
6	Dr Asad Rahmani, Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai.	Member
7	Dr G.N. Vankhede, Satpuda Foundation, Amravati.	Member
8	Dr Koustubh Sharma, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore	Member
9	Shri P.R. Sinha Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	Member
10	Shri Jagdish Kishwan Addl. Director General of Forests and Director, Wildlife Preservation	Member-Secretary
11	Dr Rajesh Gopal, Member Secretary (NTCA)	Invitee
12	Shri A.K. Srivastava, Inspector General of Forests (WL)	Invitee
13	Shri Biswajit Mohanty, Member, NBWL	Invitee
14	Shri S.K. Nanda, Secretary (Forest), Government of Gujarat	Invitee
15	Shri Pawan Kumar, Secretary (Forest), Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow	Invitee
16	Dr P.A. Azeez, Chairman, Expert Committee on Kolleru Lake conservation	Invitee
17	Shri Sanjay Upadhyay, Member, Expert Committee on Kolleru Lake conservation	Invitee
18	Dr V. N. V. K. Sastry, Member, Expert Committee on Kolleru Lake conservation	Invitee
18	Dr K.M Reddy, Member, Expert Committee on Kolleru Lake conservation	Invitee
19	Dr R.N. Mehrotra, Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajasthan	Invitee

20	Shri Ram Prakash, Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) and CWLW, Chattisgarh	Invitee
21	Shri J.B. Jauhar Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand	Invitee
22	Shri A.C. Chaubey Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan	Invitee
23	Shri T.R. Sharma, Add. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), Madhya Pradesh	Invitee
24	Shri P.S. Somashekar, Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), Rajasthan	Invitee
25	Shri Sunil Pandey, Chief Conservator of Forests, Meerut	Invitee
26	Shri B.K. Singh, Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), Kanpur	Invitee
27	Shri A.Mohanty, Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), Sikkim	Invitee
28	Shri K.K. Jha, Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), Uttar Pradesh	Invitee
29	Shri Bivash Ramjan, Conservator of Forests, Agra	Invitee
30	Shri Ravindra Singh, Addl. Cabinet Secretary/CEO, UPIDA, Lucknow	Invitee
31	Shri A.K. Singh, Chief Wildlife Warden, Jammu & Kashmir	Invitee
32	Shri V.K. Mohan, Representing Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra	Invitee
33	Shri H.S. Singh, Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat	Invitee
34	Shri S.S. Rasaily, Representing Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand	Invitee
35	Shri N.S. Bisht, Chief Wildlife Warden, Mizoram	Invitee
36	Ms. Prakriti Srivastava Deputy Inspector General (WL)	Invitee
36	Shri Prabhat Tyagi Joint Director (WL)	Invitee
37	Shri P.K. Sharma, Second-in-command (OPS), Sector HQ, BSF, Aizawal, Mizoram.	Invitee
38	Shri S.S. Thakur, Dy. Commandant (OPS), Block 10, BSF HQ, CGO Complex, New Delhi.	Invitee
39	Shri Yogendra Pal Singh Deputy Director (WL)	Invitee

Dissent note forwarded by non official members of Standing Committee of NBWL

Note by Dr M. K. Ranjitsinh:

“Items 2[4(2)] : Construction of fencing and patrol road along the Indo-Bangladesh Border in Damp Tiger Reserve, Mizoram; 4.1(3) denotification of Trikuta Wildlife Sanctuary, Jammu and Kashmir, and others : The Standing Committee has always followed the norm that where a substantial portion of a national park or sanctuary is to be denotified, it would have to be compensated by having at least an equivalent area added elsewhere to the same protected area and if this be not possible, by the creation of another PA or by addition to an existing PA within the state. An excellent example was Himachal Pradesh, where an additional area larger in size was notified and only thereafter the MoEF, on the recommendation of the Standing Committee, gave permission for the denotification of various parts of PA's in the state. I would like to very emphatically reiterate, as I mentioned in the meeting itself, that this practice must continue, for otherwise the Standing Committee and hence the NBWL, would only be party to the reduction of the PA's with no areas ever to be added in the future, which cannot be the mandate of these two august bodies, especially in view of the fact that, as we all know, the only hope for the long term survival of India's natural heritage lies in our protected area system.

2. *I would like this dissent note / observation to be recorded in both the above mentioned items where a total denotification of the Trikuta Sanctuary in Kashmir and a large scale secession of the Dampa Tiger Reserve, are envisaged. Would also wish to mention that the alternate notification adding to a PA or creating a new one to compensate for the denotification of any PA, must precede the propose denotification, as was done in the case of Himachal Pradesh”.*

3. *As was mentioned in the meeting itself by some members, the agenda items must be sent well in advance and that in future additional agenda items must not be given in the meeting for the first time. Unlike in the past, maps are now being provided with the proposals but not in all cases. However, crucial information such as the opinion of the state wildlife advisory boards without which the Standing Committee cannot consider the proposals, must be clearly stated in the project format prepared for each proposal. It was noticed that in a number of cases, especially in the case of Madhya Pradesh, the number of trees to be felled was simply not given. This is a very important requirement and proposals which lack this data should not be considered.*

4. *There was far little time allotted for the meeting with the agenda that it had, as a result of which items on conservation suggested by the members were not discussed. This has frequently occurred in the past. In view of the very infrequent meetings of the full NBWL, the Standing Committee is the only fora where conservation issues can be raised by the members and if even this opportunity is denied, then the Standing Committee would only be a project clearance committee and nothing more. The matter could be resolved by having longer duration meetings and more frequent meetings, which the Chairman has acknowledged and agreed to.”*

Joint note by Ms. Prerna Bindra and Dr Koustubh Sharma:

“Due to the hurried manner in which the proceedings of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) were conducted on 25 April 2011, we would like to put our dissent note on a number of the decisions taken during the meeting, and request that these be put on record.

2. *The Ministry's 14 September 2010 Notification constituting the Standing Committee states that “The Member-Secretary shall prepare agenda items for the meetings, obtain approval of the Chairperson and circulate it to all members at least fifteen days prior to the date of such meeting.” In view of the above, we dissent from the decisions taken by the Committee on the additional agenda items that were sent to the members on the night of*

Friday, 22 April 2011, giving us not a single working day before the meeting, and no time to review and assess the items for an informed decision making process.

3. The decision-making process of the NBWL is hampered by the fact that maps, FAC clearances, ELA reports, etc., for all agenda items usually reach the members a day or so before the meeting, a fact repeatedly pointed out by the members. It is important that members should be able to assess the proposals and the likely impacts they will have on PAs and wildlife.”

Note by Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda:

“This is with reference to the last meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL). I want to bring to your attention the following:

- a. While the agenda was circulated by email the hard copy with the maps was delivered to my house on Sunday, 24th April at Jaipur when I had already left for Delhi.*
- b. Additional items in the agenda were presented at the meeting itself.*

2. In view of the above, I was unable to fully prepare for the meeting as I would have liked to do.

3. With regard to Parvan major irrigation project in Rajasthan, please record that I had pointed out at the meeting that nearly 2 lac trees need to be inundated/ chopped for the purpose. Though I did not mention it then, I feel very strongly that proper ELA of the project must be done.

4. I would request you to kindly arrange to send the agenda well in time with maps so that one can be prepared for the discussion and contribute effectively.”

Note by Ms. Prerna Bindra regarding minutes of 21st Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL:

“It was pointed out by Ms Prerna Bindra that the area of Hastinapur sanctuary is 2079 sq km. The sanctuary has huge human habitation; there are villages, highways etc, and huge tracts have been degraded and fragmented and are known to have become of little value to wildlife. But crucially, there are still pockets which are of immense biodiversity value, with swamp deer, leopard, jungle cat, sarus cranes, Gangetic dolphins which must not be compromised. It will be prudent to have a site visit to understand which part of the sanctuary this and other proposals pertaining to Hastinapur sanctuary is being impacted by the proposals put before the committee, on the basis of which an informed decision can be made. It was assured that the area in question was not of value to wildlife, but to be on the side of caution it was agreed that a site inspection be made and after ascertaining the facts, due permission may be given subject to the following.

2. *During the April 25th meeting, it was pointed out that clearance for the above proposal was given unconditionally during the January 24th meeting. However, I would like to place on record my dissent to a blanket clearance without verifying the area’s value in terms of wildlife/ biodiversity, as specified above.”*
