



F.No.WL-6/20/2023-WL
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Wild Life Division)

2nd Floor, Vayu Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, New Delhi-110003.

Date: 11th May, 2023

To
All Members
Standing Committee of NBWL

Sub: Minutes of 72nd Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life-reg.

Sir/Madam,

Kindly find enclosed copy of the Minutes of 72nd Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 25th April, 2023 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

SUDHEER
CHINTALAPATI

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by SUDHEER
CHINTALAPATI
Date: 2023.05.11 12:33:35 +05'30'

(Dr. Sudheer Chintalapati)
Scientist 'E'
Email: adwl-mefcc@gov.in.

Encl: As above

Distribution:

1. Secretary, MoEF & CC
2. DGF&SS, MoEF&CC.
3. ADGF(WL), MOEF&CC.
4. ADGF(FC), MoEF&CC.
5. Member Secretary, NTCA.
6. Director/IGF, PE Division, MoEF&CC.
7. Director, WII, Dehradun.
8. Director, GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar.
9. Dr. R. Sukumar, Member, NBWL.
10. Dr. H.S. Singh, Member, NBWL.
11. Secretary, Environment, Forest, Science and Technology Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble MoEF&CC.
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS, EF&CC.
3. PPS to Secretary, MoEF & CC
4. PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC.

5. PSO to Addl. DGF(WL)/PPS to IGF(WL).
6. Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Forest Department, Government of Arunachal Pradesh/Andhra Pradesh/ Bihar/ Chattisgarh/Karnataka/ Maharashtra/Madhya Pradesh /Manipur/Haryana/ Rajasthan/ Ladakh/ Tamil Nadu/ Telangana/ Uttarakhand/ Uttar Pradesh.
7. PCCF and HoFF, Government of Arunachal Pradesh/ Andhra Pradesh/Bihar/Chattisgarh/Karnataka/Maharashtra/Madhya Pradesh/ Manipur/Haryana/Rajasthan/Ladakh /Tamil Nadu/ Telangana/ Uttarakhand/ Uttar Pradesh.
8. CWLW, Government of Arunachal Pradesh/ Andhra Pradesh/Bihar/ Chattisgarh/Karnataka/ Maharashtra/Madhya Pradesh/Manipur/Haryana /Rajasthan/Ladakh/Tamil Nadu/ Telangana/ Uttarakhand/Uttar Pradesh.

Copy also to: Sr.Technical Director, NIC with a request to upload the minutes of the meeting on PARIVESH Portal.

MINUTES OF THE 72nd MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL BOARD FOR WILD LIFE HELD ON 25th APRIL, 2023

The 72nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life was held on 25th April, 2023 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change. The list of participants is placed at Annexure-I.

The Member Secretary welcomed the participants to the meeting and informed them about the number of proposals received on the PARIVESH portal and those under process at various levels. He then requested IGF (WL) to initiate the discussion on the Agenda Items.

AGENDA ITEM No.1

72.1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 71st Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 29th December, 2022.

The Standing Committee was informed that the minutes of the 71st meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 29th December, 2022 were circulated to all the Members and no comments have been received on the minutes.

Decision Taken: The Standing Committee decided to confirm the minutes of its 71st meeting held on 29th December, 2022.

AGENDA ITEM No.2

(Action Taken Report)

- 72.2.1
- a. **Proposal for collection of Minor Minerals from Song 1, 2, 3 and Jakhan 1, 2 of Dehradun Forest division, Uttarakhand-FP/UK/MIN/38285/2020.**
 - b. **Proposal for extraction of RBM over an area of 9.878 ha by Windlass RBM Mining Project FP/UK/MIN/5059/2020**
 - c. **Proposal for extraction of RBM over an area of 13.161 ha by Windlass RBM Mining Project FP/UK/MIN/5052/2020**

These proposals for mining of River Bed Materials in the default Eco-sensitive Zones were considered by the Standing Committee and deferred. The Proposal no. FP/UK/MIN/38285/2020 is from Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation involves four mining lots within default 10 km ESZ of Rajaji Tiger Reserve. The proposed areas for mining are situated at different distances viz. 0.7 to 8.5 km from the northern boundary of the western part of Rajaji Tiger Reserve (Song 1-8.5 km (202 ha), Song 2-5.1 km (136.85 ha), Song 3-0.2 km (93.5 Ha) & Jakhan-5.4 km (96.5 ha). The proposal no. FP/UK/MIN/5052/2020 is for use of an area of 13.161 ha by Windlass RBM Mining Project a distance of 1.1 km from the boundary of Rajaji Tiger Reserve.

The proposal no. FP/UK/MIN/5059/2020 is for use of an area of 9.878 ha by Windlass RBM Mining Project at a distance of 1.4 km from Rajaji Tiger Reserve.

The Standing Committee in the 67th meeting held on 25th March 2022 had decided that the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) shall be requested to prepare a holistic plan for critical passage of wild animal for the landscape around 10 km from the Rajaji Tiger Reserve to identify zones for sand and boulder mining within two months. It was therefore, decided to defer the proposal.

Accordingly, the Ministry requested WII to prepare a holistic plan for critical passage of wild animal in the landscape around Rajaji Tiger Reserve. WII has submitted the plan which is placed at **ANNEXURE I**. WII has identified a holistic plan area of 2689 sq.km (10 km from Rajaji TR). The delineation done by WII is as follows:

AREA DESCRIPTION

- a. 10 km-radius landscape from Rajaji TR - 2689.00 sq.km
- b. Holistic Plan Area (within Uttarakhand) - 2242.78 sq.km
- c. ESZ within HPA - 341.77 sq.km
- d. Wildlife corridors within HPA - 123.72 sq.km
- e. RET species' occurrences, habitats & corridors - 1633.19 sq.km
- f. 'Critical Zone' (RET species' occurrences, habitats, corridors, PAs & ESZ) within HPA - 1662.22 sq.km
- g. 'Non-critical Zone' within HPA - 580.58 sq.km
- h. HEC-affected beats within HPA - 700.20 sq.km
- i. Critical Zone including HEC-affected beats within HPA - 1724.31 sq.km
- j. Non-critical Zone (when HEC-affected beats data included) - 518.49 sq.km.

The report recommends that an area of about 1,662 sq.km of the c. 2,250 sq.km HPA (around 74 percent) may be delineated as "critical zone" while the rest may be classified as "non-critical zone". In the non-critical zone, RBM mining may be permitted subject to comprehensive and (wherever relevant) cumulative/site-specific appraisal of such proposals. For the critical zones, WII has presented two decision making scenarios. The three proposals mentioned above fall within the critical zone. WII has recommended that they may be positively appraised with commissioning of cumulative impact assessment studies, and thereafter strict and regular monitoring of statutory compliance conditions and applicable rules, guidelines, statutes except for Song 3 lot (which has been proposed for rejection) in proposal no. FP/UK/MIN/38285/2020.

The Proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting of SC-NBWL. The Chief Wild Life Warden of Uttarakhand informed that there are many stone crushers in Uttar Pradesh which are a cause of concern. He said that the report submitted by the WII stops makes no mention of impacts caused due to the activities happening in the area of Uttar Pradesh that borders Uttarakhand.

Decision Taken: The Standing Committee requested WII to conduct a study in the areas of Uttar Pradesh which lie within a 10 km radius around Rajaji Tiger Reserve and submit the report within two months for further examination. Accordingly, it was decided to defer the proposals.

72.2.2 Amendment in the minutes of 57th Meeting held on 7th April, 2020 regarding proposal for use of 21.2642 ha forest land falling in the tiger corridor linking Kawal Tiger Reserve in Kagaznagar Division for laying of new third BG railway line along the existing track within the railway boundary between Makhudi and Rechni road railway stations in Komarambeem, Asifabad and Mancherial District, Telangana State.

The proposal for amendment in the minutes of the 57th Meeting held on 7th April, 2020 regarding use of 21.2642 ha forest land falling in the tiger corridor linking Kawal Tiger Reserve in Kagaznagar Division for laying of new third BG railway line along the existing track within the railway boundary between Makhudi and Rechni road railway stations in Komarambeem, Asifabad and Mancherial District, Telangana State was considered in the 68th meeting of the Standing Committee held on 30th May 2022 wherein it was decided that a meeting would be held under the Chairmanship of Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority with the representatives of the Ministry of Railways and NHAI and the Chief Wild Life Wardens of Telangana and Maharashtra to examine the project and that the proceedings of the meeting would be placed before the Standing Committee in the next meeting. A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Member Secretary, NTCA on 6th of June, 2022. The representatives of NHAI and the Ministry of Railways agreed with all the conditions imposed by NTCA except retrofitting of the underpass bridge numbers 226, 227 and 240 in Forest Section B along the existing tracks within the railway boundary. The representative of the Ministry of Railways also assured that for future activities along the said line, adequate under-passes /over-passes for tiger crossing would be provided. The Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority requested the representative of the Ministry of Railways to send a written confirmation to this effect to the Ministry at the earliest. The proposal was again considered in the 69th meeting held on 29th July, 2022. After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to defer the matter till the receipt of written confirmation from the User agency as decided in the meeting held on 6th June 2022 under the Chairmanship of the Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority.

The Chief Wild Life Warden, Telangana has communicated the written confirmation from the Chief Engineer, South Central Railway, Secunderabad stating that during future activities along the railway line in the forest area between Makudi-Rechni Road Railway Stations, two overpasses at Railway km: 178/28-30 and km: 191/0-2 and one underpass at km: 193/22-24 for tiger crossing will be provided.

The letter of the South Central Railway was examined in the Ministry wherein the Chief Engineer has stated that during future activities along the railway line in the forest area between Makudi-Rechni Road Railway Stations, two overpasses at Railway km: 178/28-30 and km: 191/0-2 and one underpass at km: 193/22-24 for tiger crossing. The letter is in conformity with the decision taken in the meeting dated 6th June, 2022 chaired by the Member Secretary, NTCA.

The proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting SC-NBWL.

Dr.Sukumar, Member NBWL and Dr.H.S.Singh, Member NBWL said that they had no objection to the proposal if the NTCA was satisfied with the submission of the South Central railway.

Decision Taken: After discussion the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. The user agency shall provide cross-over tunnels at their own cost, beneath the proposed railway line for the free movement of wild animals at animal crossing zones identified by the concerned Forest Officers for the purpose, especially along streams.
2. The user agency shall provide fencing / barricading at their own cost at locations which are frequented by wild animals to cross over from one side of the forest to the other side across railway lines.
3. The user agency shall provide Rs.276.50 lakh for developing natural grass lands/meadows, water harvesting structures, solar bore wells, publicity and awareness materials, sign boards, etc., to be implemented over a period of 5 years as under:

S.No.	Component	Financial Target (in lakh)
i	Habitat Improvement	
	a. Bore wells with solar pump sets (10 Nos) at Rs.4 lakh each.	40.00
	b. Management of natural grass lands by uprooting unwanted growth and sowing native grass seeds including collection of seed, 200 ha at Rs. 20,000/-	40.00
ii	Water Management	15.00
	a. Construction of mini percolation tanks 10 Nos at Rs.1.5 lakh each	
	b. Construction of new medium percolation tanks 10 Nos at 2.00 lakh each	20.00
	c. Formation of staggered contour trenches 15000 Nos., 0.506 cm per trench (15000 Nos x 0.506 cum + 7590 cum) at Rs.264.79 per cum)	20.00
iii	Fire Management	
	a. Construction of fire watch tower includes road connectivity 2 Nos at Rs.10.00 lakh	20.00

	each	
	b. Semi-permanent campaign sites for night halt with solar power and bore well for base camp staff and animal trackers, 4 Nos at Rs.5.00 lakh each	20.00
	c. Procurement of fire blowers, 6 Nos at Rs. 0.50 lakh)	3.00
	d. Engaging of fire watchers for 5 Nos for fire season from January to May for 5 months including hiring of jeep. 5 Nos x 5 months at Rs.8340.00 per month =2.085 lakh + hire charges 5 month at Rs.25,000 per month = Rs.1.250 lakh = Rs.3.335 Lakh per one season Rs.3.335 lakh x 5 seasons / years = Rs.16.675 lakh.	16.50
	e. Fire fighting equipment for fire watchers towards Apron, shoes, glasses, helmets, etc.	5.00
	f. Formation of new fire lines (width 5.0 m) 15,000 Rmt at 7.481/1 Rmt. per year = 1.490 x 5 years.	5.55
iv	Communication and Monitoring facilities	5.00
	a. Procurement of GPS hand held (20 Nos at 0.25 lakh)	5.00
	b. Procurement of camera traps for monitoring movement of 50 Nos t Rs.0.25 lakh each	12.50
	c. Fabrication of trap cages for carnivores and herbivores for population management 2 trap cages and 10 crates	5.00
v	Vulture Conservation Project: Long billed Vulture Conservation Program in Kagaznagar Division including engaging field biologist, bird trackers for monitoring of nesting and breeding, purchase of equipment, etc., Rs.15.00	15.0
vi	Publicity & Awareness Hoardings and publicity to propagate the need for conservation of flora and fauna of the area.	20.00
vii	Miscellaneous and unforeseen expenditure	8.95
	Total	276.50

4. The above amount shall be deposited by the user agency in the BIOSOT account of the State Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana in Andhra Bank, Secretariat Branch, Hyderabad.
5. The user agency shall fell only the barest minimum number of trees

- while executing the work.
6. The works shall be carried out without disturbing or damaging flora, fauna or habitat of the area.
 7. Work shall be carried out from 6.00 A.M to 6.00 P.M only.
 8. The material for carrying out the proposed works shall be kept outside the sanctuary area. As and when required they should be carried to the site during execution of work.
 9. No labour camp should be established inside Tiger Reserve during the execution of the work.
 10. The debris formed due to the execution of the works shall be taken away from the Tiger Reserve on day-to-day basis.
 11. The user agency shall construct masonry pillars to demarcate the proposed project area at every 25 m interval.
 12. As a compensation mechanism for the establishment of the third BG line, the concerned railway authority needs to purchase lands (in a continuous stretch) adjacent to the potential corridor / habitat linkage area to facilitate movement of tiger and other species in the landscape. Once purchased, these lands will be handed over to forest department for their appropriate management.
 13. An onsite survey to identify the best sites including their extent in the proposed land purchase area would be carried out by Telangana Forest Department and concerned Railway Division and effect transfer of that land to the State Forest Department within 3 years of the start of project.
 14. A minimum 15-20% of the railway line length should be covered by wildlife passage ways at each corridor.
 15. Over passes or under passes would be required at specific locations that shall be decided after thorough ground survey and understanding the animal movement by a team of NTCA & WII.
 16. The minimum length of such structures should be 30 m to qualify as an animal passage way. The height of underpass would be a minimum of 4.5 m from the ground so as to pass under train traffic.
 17. The existing railway lines should be mitigated with the same structures and the barrier effect of new and old lines would be compounded. The wildlife passage ways need to be equipped with light and sound barriers to maximize their uses for animal passage.
 18. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to the Government of India.

72.2.3 Hubli-Ankola New Railway line project Karnataka.

A proposal for wildlife clearance for Hubli-Ankola new railway line project was received by the Ministry from the State Government of Karnataka in 2017. The project involves diversion of an area of 595.64 ha of forest land for the construction of a new broad gauge railway line from Hubballi to Ankola passing through tiger corridors connecting Kali Tiger Reserve with Sharavathi Sanctuary in Karnataka.

Ministry constituted a seven-member committee as per the decision taken

by the SCNBWL in the 68th meeting held on 30th May, 2022 vide letter dated 3rd June 2022. The Committee held a meeting on 16th June, 2022 and carried out site inspection and hearing of stakeholders in North Kanara and Dharwad districts of Karnataka from 26.09.2022 till 29.09.2022. The committee further met on 12.12.2022 and 19.12.2022. The Committee submitted its report to the Ministry on 26.12.2022. The committee found certain gaps/discrepancies in the project proposal. The committee therefore, recommended that the project proposal in the present form should not be considered. The project may qualify for consideration by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life only when all gaps/discrepancies and issues raised by the committee members, as mentioned above in this report, are addressed to minimise ecological loss and submitted afresh.

During 71st meeting SC-NBWL held on 29.12.2022 it was decided that the Ministry shall organise a workshop under the chairmanship of ADG Wildlife with officials of the Ministry of Railways, National Highways Authority of India, Gati Shakti, Karnataka Government and experts from Indian Institute of Technology, Dharwad, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and CPWD to discuss the project proposal in detail.

Subsequently, Ministry organized a meeting under the Chairmanship of ADGF (WL) on 3rd February, 2023 wherein following action points emerged:

- a. The report of the committee will be communicated to the Ministry of Railways, National Highways Authority of India, State Government of Karnataka, and Gati Shakti for development of an integrated regional development plan for the region and follow-up action on the recommendations made in the report of the committee.
- b. An inter-ministerial meeting may be convened to discuss the development of a regional master plan for transport with the involvement of NHAI, Gati Shakti, and Government of Karnataka. WII will compile the best practices adopted for railway line and its implementation in India and make a presentation during the meeting.
- c. An integrated infrastructure development plan should be developed in order to harmonise the transportation needs of the region with the conservation of forest and wildlife.
- d. As the committee has not recommended the proposal in its current form, the proposal for Hubli Ankola New Railway Line needs to be revised in accordance with the recommendations of the committee.
- e. The Ministry of Railways may request WII to prepare a mitigation plan for the project that can be showcased as a model. Bridges and tunnels under the project should be designed in an ecologically friendly manner and state-of-the-art technology should be used to prevent deaths of wild animals due to collisions with trains.

As a follow-up, the report of the Committee was provided to the Ministry of Railways and another meeting on Hubli-Ankola New Railway Line Project was held on 15th March, 2023). After discussions, the following points were agreed:

- a. The Ministry of Railways, National Highways Authority of India and State Highways Authority of Karnataka shall work out a transportation infrastructure development plan for the area along with the Infrastructure Development Department.
- b. Alternative route for linear proposals outside PAs have to be provided in proposals.
- c. Every linear infrastructure proposal passing through or along PAs/ RF should have appropriate environmental friendly mitigation plan for protecting wildlife. This can be included in consultation with Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- d. Fresh proposals should have Carbon footprint under Cost Benefit Analysis, Wetland Development plan as per the Wetland (Conservation and Development) Rules, 2017, Plastic free zone and promotion of traditional knowledge in 10 km radius of the proposal site.

The proposal was discussed in 72nd meeting SC-NBWL.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided that a joint meeting would be convened by the Ministry of Railways with National Highway Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Road Transport Highways and the State Government to discuss the matter further.

72.2.4 Amendment in the minutes of the 32nd meeting held on 21st January, 2015 regarding proposal for clearance to expansion of existing coal based power project by adding one unit 500 MW under stage IV of NTPC Ltd Feroz Gandhi Unchahar, Uttar Pradesh within 10 kms from Samaspur bird Sanctuary.

The proposal for clearance to expansion of the existing coal based power project by adding one unit 500 MW under stage IV of NTPC Ltd Feroz Gandhi Unchahar, Uttar Pradesh was considered by the SCNBWL in its 32nd Meeting held on 21st January, 2015.

The proposal was recommended by the Standing Committee subject to implementation of mitigation measures and the conditions stipulated by the CWLW and Environment Clearance obtained under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and EIA Notification 2006.

Under the conditions, a sum amounting to 2% of the project cost shall be placed with the Chief Wild Life Warden by the User agency. The Feroz Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power Project, Stage-IV (1x500 MW) is located at 7.9 km away from Samaspur Bird Sanctuary and beyond the boundary of ESZ of Samaspur Bird Sanctuary.

The ESZ of the Samaspur Bird Sanctuary was notified on 27.09.2019 much later than the recommendations of the SCNBWL. NTPC has informed the Ministry that all the conditions have been complied with except the condition relating to payment of 2% of the project cost. NTPC has requested that the condition be reviewed since the project does not

fall inside the notified ESZ of Samaspur Sanctuary.

A meeting was organised by Member Secretary, NBWL to discuss the matter with Chief Wild Life Warden, Uttar Pradesh and officials of NTPC on 19th July, 2022. However, the officials of the NTPC did not attend the meeting. It was decided to get the project area inspected by the officials of the Integrated Regional Office to check the status of compliance of the conditions by NTPC. The proposal for amendment in the minutes of the 32nd meeting was considered in the 69th meeting held on 29th July, 2022 wherein the Standing Committee decided to defer the matter till the receipt of the report from the Deputy Director General of Forests, Integrated Regional Office, Lucknow.

IRO, Lucknow has submitted its report vide letter dated 14.10.2022. The site inspection was carried out by Scientist from IRO, Lucknow. Several non-compliances of conditions imposed in Environment Clearance and those imposed by SCNBWL in 32nd meeting held on 21.01.2015 have been reported.

In 71st meeting SC-NBWL held on 29.12.2022, the Standing Committee decided that the officials of Feroz Gandhi Unchahar NTPC should be present before the Standing Committee in its next meeting to explain the reasons for not complying with the conditions.

The proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting SC-NBWL.

Decision taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided that the head of the IRO Lucknow and the officials of NTPC should be present before the Standing Committee in the next meeting to explain the reason for the delay of submitting the compliance report for the unit. Accordingly, the proposal was deferred.

72.2.5 Proposal for use of 0.0762 ha of forest land from Jaikwadi Bird Sanctuary for laying underground 24" Steel Gas Pipeline from Ahmednagar to Aurangabad within the RoW of MSH-05 in Ta. Gangapur & Newasa for city gas distribution by BGRL.

FP/MH/Pipeline/5827/2021

The proposal is for use of 0.0762 ha of forest land from Jaikwadi Bird Sanctuary for laying underground 24" Steel Gas Pipeline from Ahmednagar to Aurangabad within the RoW of MSH-05 in Gangapur and Newasa in Maharashtra for city gas distribution by Bharat Gas Resources Ltd.

The proposal was first considered in the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee held on 29th July, 2022 wherein it was decided to defer the proposal till the submission of contingency plan by the State Government in case of leakage of gas which may affect the ecosystem.

The proposal was again considered in the 70th meeting held on

13.10.2022. As the report from the State Government was not received, the proposal was deferred.

Thereafter, the State Government submitted a report which categorised three levels of risk and response identification. The plan highlights initial procedures to be followed in case of gas leak, notification of gas leak to concerned authorities, preliminary estimate of response tier, notifying key team members and authorities, identifying resources immediately at risk, preparation of resources list and their readiness, gas leak report form. Further, the plan also provides for designation of Chief Co-ordinator, Operations Co-ordinator, Operations squad, Maintenance Co-ordinator, Restoration Squad, Materials Squad, Communication Co-ordinator, Administration and Finance Co-ordinator, Evacuation Squad in case of gas leakage.

Proposal was again discussed in 71st meeting held on 29.12.2022 wherein the Standing Committee decided that the State Government would be asked to submit a standard operating procedure along with the contingency plan. It was decided to defer the matter till the next meeting.

The State Government of Maharashtra was requested to provide the report as per the decision taken in the 71st meeting of the Standing Committee vide Ministry letter no. 6-111/2022 WL dated 6th February, 2023.

The State Government of Maharashtra has forwarded Emergency Response Plan and Standard Operating Procedure for handling emergency/gas leakage situations prepared by Bharat Petroleum Gas Limited vide their letter dated 20th April, 2023.

The SOP for emergency handling identifies three levels of emergencies. It identifies the agencies to be liaison during emergency, designation of authorities for handling emergencies and their roles and responsibilities. It also highlights the nature of records to be maintained and communication to be established. It also defines the roles of various line department authorities such as district administration, medical personnel, traffic officers, water and irrigation authorities, PWD, railways, NDRF and SDRF, SPCB. The Plan designates pipeline control room at Ahmednagar as Emergency Control Centre. The SOP identifies pre-emergency planning requirements, forms to be maintained, emergency preparedness measures such as emergency drills and mock exercises, training and capacity building, mutual aid, communication protocol.

The SOP mentions the procedure for handling emergency at site which includes – reporting gas leakage, flow of information, shutting down of operations and venting, procedure for declaration of emergency, operation control at site. The SOP also provides for notification of completion of emergency phase of operation, emergency recovery procedure and post incident procedures. The SOP received from the State Government.

The proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting SC-NBWL.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions.

1. Project Proponent should deposit 2% of the project cost of works involved in Jaikwadi Bird Sanctuary area and its ESZ area, for habitat development with Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife), Aurangabad for the conservation and management of wildlife in the State of Maharashtra.
2. While executing the work and thereafter also there should be no violation of provisions Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972, by Project Proponent or their contractors.
3. A contingency plan shall be prepared by the Project Proponent to manage leakage / any accident which may affect the aquatic birds and ecosystem.
4. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to Gol.

72.2.6 Proposal for use of 0.2787 ha from Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary for laying gas pipeline by Bharat Gas Resources Ltd. on Limpangaon-Nagar Road in Shrigonda Ta. of Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra

FP/MH/Pipeline/5557/2020

The proposal is for use 0.2787 ha from Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary for laying gas pipeline by Bharat Gas Resources Ltd. on Limpangaon-Nagar Road in Shrigonda Ta. of Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra.

The proposal was considered in the 70th meeting held on 13th October, 2022 wherein the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal till the submission of a contingency plan by the State Government to deal with incidents of gas leakage.

Thereafter, the State Government submitted a report which categorised three levels of risk and response identification. The plan highlights initial procedures to be followed in case of gas leak, notification of gas leak to concerned authorities, preliminary estimate of response tier, notifying key team members and authorities, identifying resources immediately at risk, preparation of resources list and their readiness, gas leak report form. Further, the plan also provides for designation of Chief Co-ordinator, Operations Co-ordinator, Operations squad, Maintenance Co-ordinator, Restoration Squad, Materials Squad, Communication Co-ordinator, Administration and Finance Co-ordinator, Evacuation Squad in case of gas leakage.

The proposal was again considered in the 71st meeting held on 29th December, 2022 wherein the Standing Committee decided that the State Government would be asked to submit a standard operating procedure along with the contingency plan. It was decided to defer the matter till the next meeting.

The State Government of Maharashtra was requested to provide the report as per the decision taken in the 71st meeting of the Standing Committee vide Ministry letter no. 6-212/2022 WL dated 6th February, 2023.

The State Government of Maharashtra has forwarded Emergency Response Plan and Standard Operating Procedure for handling emergency/gas leakage situations prepared by Bharat Petroleum Gas Limited vide their letter dated 20th April, 2023.

The SOP for emergency handling identifies three levels of emergencies. It identifies the agencies to be liaison during emergency, designation of authorities for handling emergencies and their roles and responsibilities. It also highlights the nature of records to be maintained and communication to be established. It also defines the roles of various line department authorities such as district administration, medical personnel, traffic officers, water and irrigation authorities, PWD, railways, NDRF and SDRF, SPCB. The Plan designates pipeline control room at Ahmednagar as Emergency Control Centre. The SOP identifies pre-emergency planning requirements, forms to be maintained, emergency preparedness measures such as emergency drills and mock exercises, training and capacity building, mutual aid, communication protocol.

The SOP mentions the procedure for handling emergency at site which includes – reporting gas leakage, flow of information, shutting down of operations and venting, procedure for declaration of emergency, operation control at site. The SOP also provides for notification of completion of emergency phase of operation, emergency recovery procedure and post incident procedures. The SOP received from the State Government.

The proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting SC-NBWL.

Decision Taken: After discussion the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following condition.

1. In sanctuary area, the gas pipeline laying work will be carried out within RoW, during day time only.
2. Care will be taken that no tree is felled.
3. The user agency should restore the land after use/maintenance.
4. The Project Proponent should restore any loss to forest/environment.
5. The Project Proponent will seek permission from State Forest Department for carrying out any maintenance.
6. The Project Proponent will have to submit NOC from the agency

which holds the right to be the right of way.

7. Horizontal drilling machine to be used for pipeline laying work inside sanctuary area.
8. The length of trench dug at a time should not exceed 500 m. which shall be filled up & compacted before digging next stretch of 500 m. to avoid accidental damage to wildlife inside the sanctuary.
9. While executing the work and thereafter also there should be no violation of provisions Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972, by Project Proponent or their contractors.
10. A contingency plan shall be prepared by the Project Proponent to manage leakage / any accident which may affect the aquatic birds and ecosystem. The contingency plan shall include.
 - a. Leak detection system to immediately identify the leakages, if any.
 - b. Remote operated valves (ROV) for terminating the pipeline operation and isolation.
 - c. Stopping of pipeline operation and isolation of leaky segment by closing of block valves at Specialising valve (SV) stations.
 - d. Intelligent pigging for monitoring of pipeline defects and maintaining pipeline integrity.
 - e. Impressed Current Cathodic protection to prevent corrosion
 - f. Three layered PE coating on outer surface of the pipeline to prevent external corrosion
 - g. Regular patrolling of the pipeline by Line walkers to prevent any third party incidents.
 - h. In order to have effective control on the pipeline and for its optimum utilization and safety, an appropriate system such as Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Applications Software (APPS) package shall be implemented.
 - i. Dedicated Pipeline integrity & Maintenance team for monitoring, maintenance and repairs of pipeline along with leak arresting equipment's and machines.

11. Project proponent shall deposit 2% of project cost of areas falling in Great Indian Bustard sanctuary and Eco-Sensitive Zone of in Great Indian Bustard sanctuary for wildlife conservation and management activities of the State with Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Pune.

12. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to the Government of India.

72.2.7 Proposed Silica Sand mining project ML.No.09/2003 (Area 4.2682 Ha) in village- Manoharpura, Tehsil, district-Karauli of M/s Rama Minerals.

FP/RJ/MIN/4863/2020

The proposal is for use of 4.2682 ha Silica Sand mining project ML.No.09/2003 (Area 4.2682 Ha) in village Manoharpura, Tehsil, district-

Karauli of M/s Rama Minerals. Proposed site is 5.1 Km away from the Kaila Devi Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) which is a part of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.

The proposal was considered in the 70th meeting held on 13th October, 2022 wherein the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal till the submission of proposal for declaration ESZ around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. The Standing Committee also directed that a cumulative impact study be carried out by Wildlife Institute of India in order to determine areas where mining can be allowed around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.

The State Government of Rajasthan submitted a proposal for declaration of ESZ around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. However, as the proposal lacked clarity, essential information has been sought from the State Government as follows:

- a. Soft copy of the proposal in word format;
- b. coloured and legible A-4 size map with coordinates for both (PA and ESZ boundary) on the toposheet (Maps provided with the proposals not in A-4 size).
- c. Gazette Notification of the above Protected Areas and GIS/KML Files of Protected Areas and their ESZ.
- d. The list of activities which are proposed to prohibited, regulated and permitted should mandatorily include the activities as mentioned in the Ministry's guidelines dated 9th February, 2011 as per the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 03.06.2022.

The above details are awaited from the State Government.

The Wildlife Institute of India submitted the report with the following recommendations:

- a. Mining leases not falling within ESZ or wildlife corridors may only be extended/ permitted after commissioning detailed site-specific and cumulative (wherever relevant) environment and biodiversity impact studies.
- b. All mining leases-either currently operational or pending statutory appraisal-located within the legally valid ESZ and in wildlife corridors may be rejected; it is also important that the ESZs of RTR, RVTR and NCSP, Rajasthan are finalised as early as possible following existing guidelines on the matter and as per relevant orders of higher courts of judicature in this regard.
- c. Similarly, all mining leases either currently operational or pending appraisal-located within the occurrence/ suitable habitat zones of globally threatened and Sch. I species of prime conservation concern such as tiger, leopard, caracal, wolf, dhole, sloth bear, Indian pangolin etc. may not be positively appraised to allow for wildlife use of these areas.

Mining leases not falling within ESZ or wildlife corridors may only be extended/permitted after commissioning detailed site-specific and cumulative (wherever relevant) environment and biodiversity impact studies.

The proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting SC-NBWL.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan said that the details sought from the State Government would be provided in the next three working days.

Decision taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal till the next meeting.

- 72.2.8** Proposed Richhoti silica sand and masonry stone mine M.L.No.06/1982 M/s Kumar Herbals & Silica, Rajasthan.

FP/RJ/MIN/5863/2021

The proposal is for use of 23.1726 ha Richhoti silica sand and masonry stone mine M.L.No.06/1982 M/s Kumar Herbals & Silica, Rajasthan. Proposed site is 8.2 Km away from the Kaila Devi Wildlife Sanctuary which is part of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (RTR).

The proposal was considered in the 70th meeting held on 13th October, 2022 wherein the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal till the submission of proposal for declaration ESZ around Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. The Standing Committee also directed that a cumulative impact study be carried out by Wildlife Institute of India in order to determine areas where mining can be allowed around Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.

A proposal for declaration of ESZ around Ranthambore Tiger Reserve was submitted by the Government of Rajasthan. However, as the proposal lacked clarity, the following information has been sought from the State Government:

- a. Soft copy of the proposal in word format;
- b. coloured and legible A-4 size map with coordinates for both (PA and ESZ boundary) on the toposheet (Maps provided with the proposals not in A-4 size).
- c. Gazette Notification of the above Protected Areas and GIS/KML Files of Protected Areas and their ESZ.
- d. The list of activities which are proposed to prohibited, regulated and permitted should mandatorily include the activities as mentioned in the Ministry's guidelines dated 9th February, 2011 as per the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 03.06.2022.

The above details are awaited from the State Government.

The proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting SC-NBWL. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan said that the details sought from the State Government would be provided in the next three working days.

Decision taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal till the next meeting.

- 72.2.9** Proposal for use of 1.25 ha of forest land for widening and upgradation of the existing road from Allapalli to Mailaram in BhadradiKothagudem

District, Telangana.
FP/TG/ROAD/5487/2020

- 72.2.10** Proposal for use of 3.43 ha of forest land from Kinnersani Wildlife Sanctuary for widening and upgradation of the existing road from Mondikunta to Mamilavai in Bhadrachalam District, Telangana

FP/TG/ROAD/4418/2019

- 72.2.11** Proposal for use of 18.083 Ha of forest land default ESZ of Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary for execution of left flank main canal and 8-R distributary for Nilwai Medium Irrigation project in Mancherial district (Package No.12) in favour of Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department, MIP Division, Mancherial, Telangana.

FP/TG/IRRIG/30173/2017

- 72.2.12** Proposal for use of 5.9359 ha of forest land from Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary for formation of BT road from L032-Mattewada to Veerampet km 0/0 to 8/000 at Gudur Mandal of Mahabubabad District, Telangana.

FP/TG/ROAD/123095/2021

The above four proposals were discussed in the 72nd meeting of SCNBWL.

Dr. H.S Singh said that the violations of FC Act, 1980 and Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 had been committed by the user agencies who had submitted these proposals. He suggested that a holistic view be taken by the Committee with regard to these proposals.

Prof.Sukumar noted that the violations indicate that the linear infrastructures proposed may not have incorporated proper mitigative measures thus posing greater risk for wildlife.

Decision Taken: After discussions the Standing Committee recommended that all proposals relating to the Telangana may be discussed in a meeting with the Telangana Chief Secretary and officials of the State Forest Department. The District Magistrate and Divisional Forest Officer of the area during the period when the violations were committed should also be present in the meeting.

- 72.2.13** De-notification of 348.12 sq.km Revenue land of SardarpurKharmor Sanctuary and notification of 16.82 sq.km forest land as sanctuary in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh

FP/MP/Others/5589/2021

A proposal for de-notification of 348.12 sq. km. of SardarpurKharmor Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh and notification of 16.82 sq.km of forest area in lieu of the proposed denotification was first considered in the

67th meeting held on 25th March 2022 and the Standing Committee had decided that a committee comprising of Dr. H.S. Singh and Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) shall examine the proposal and submit report to the Ministry for placing before the Standing Committee in the next meeting.

The Ministry constituted the committee which submitted its report on 26.05.2022. The committee opined that the proposal for denotification does not appear to have been prepared based on field reality.

In the 68th meeting of the Standing Committee held on 30th May, 2022, it was decided that the State Government shall submit a revised proposal as per the recommendations of the Site Inspection Committee by 30th August, 2022.

The State Government has submitted a revised proposal for denotification of 348.12 sq. km area of the sanctuary and re-notification of the sanctuary as follows:

Present area proposed for denotification of Sardarpur sanctuary		348.12 sq.km.
Area of the reorganised Sardarpur sanctuary boundaries	Protected areas in Jhabua Division	44.4262 sq.km
	Reserved Forest Areas in Jhabua Division	36.0636 sq.km
	Protected area in Dhar Division	51.4815 sq.km.
	Revenue area	0.8631 sq.km
Total for reorganised sanctuary		132.83 sq.km
Area added to Kuno sanctuary		55.9285 sq.km.
Area added to New Karmajhiri sanctuary		14.1042 sq.km
Area compensated with notification of new sanctuaries i.e., Sonawani sanctuary, Balaghat, Dr.BhimraoAmbedkar sanctuary, Sagar and Mahatma Gandhi Sanctuary, Burhanpur		153.588 sq.km.

The State Government has informed that the area of the re-organised SardarpurKharmor sanctuary shall be 132.83 sq. km. and the balance area has been compensated or is being compensated by addition of area to other sanctuaries or notification of new sanctuaries.

The State Government has submitted the revised proposal with the recommendations of the State Board for Wild Life. The proposal from the State Government is placed at ANNEXURE-XIX.

The proposal was again discussed in the 71st meeting held on 29.12.2022 wherein the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal till submission of a proper justification by the State Government for denotification of the sanctuary.

The Ministry communicated the decision of the Standing Committee to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh vide letter no. 6-125/2021 dated 6th February, 2023. The State Government has sent a reply which was received on 24.04.2023.

The proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting of SC-NBWL.

Decision Taken: After discussion the Standing Committee decided that the justification submitted by the State Government needs to be examined further by the Ministry. Accordingly, the proposal was deferred till the next meeting.

- 72.2.14** Proposal for construction of greenfield 4 lane Bangalore-Chennai Expressway Phase-II from Km 71.000 to Km 156.000 falling in Palamaner RF and TekumandaExtn.RF of Palamaner Beat & range of Chittoor (West) Division which are part of the ESZ of Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary and Rayala Elephant Reserve under Bharatmala in favour of NHAI.

FP/AP/ROAD/154254/2022

The proposal for use of 61.73 ha of forest land for construction of greenfield 4 lane Bangalore-Chennai Expressway Phase-II from Km 71.000 to Km156.000 falling in Palamaner RF and TekumandaExtn. RF of Palamaner Beat & range of Chittoor (West) Division which are part of the ESZ of Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary and Rayala Elephant Reserve under Bharatmala in favour of NHAI was first discussed in the 71st meeting of SCNBWL held on 29.12.2022 wherein it was decided that a committee comprising Dr.Sukumar, Member, NBWL, Dr. H. S. Singh, Member, NBWL and Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife) would carry out site inspection for the proposed greenfield highway, examine animal passage plan submitted along with the proposal and the requirement of animal passage structures in the existing highway and submit report to the Ministry.

The Ministry vide letter no. 6-256/2022 WL dated 3rd February, 2023 constituted the committee which after carrying out site inspection and meetings submitted its report on 18th April, 2023.

The committee made the following recommendations:

1. The animal passage plan for the 4-lane expressway along the 7.1 km stretch passing through the forests of Chittoor Forest Division and Rayala Elephant Reserve should be considerably strengthened following the guidelines issued by Wildlife Institute of India. Overall,

this should ensure that at least half of this 7.1 km stretch should allow free movement of the largest mammal, namely, the elephant by providing underpasses of adequate height (8m) and breadth at multiple locations. The NHAI has revised the length of clear passage for animals to 3090 m in the proposed road as per the proposal. This may be re-examined by the NHAI in consultation with the DFO, Chittoor to maximise it, if feasible.

2. While working in the forest area, the planning and execution of work by NHAI should be done with the concurrence of the DFO-Chittoor so that disturbance to the forest and wildlife can be minimised.
3. The underpass design and openness ratio has to be adhered to the Wildlife Institute of India's Eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife. This has also been mandated by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India vide their order No RW-NH-11013/02/2019-S&R (P&B) dated 29th May 2019.
4. Wherever terrain permits, there should be underpasses to facilitate movement of smaller animals and filling (as is currently proposed) should not be undertaken.
5. The entire 7.1 km stretch of the proposed expressway should not allow the crossing of animals aboveground. Along the non-elevated sections of the expressway, this can be ensured for the elephant by adopting the mechanical railway barrier design used by Karnataka Forest Department at places in Bandipur and Nagarhole National Parks, but should be further modified by adding an extra horizontal rail line to the prevailing 2 rail lines in the Karnataka PAs and raising the overall height of the topmost line by about 0.5 to 1.0 metres. Chain-link fence may also be added along the lower part of the barrier to prevent mammals such as leopards, sloth bear, and others to cross the expressway.
6. The animal passages planned for retrofitting in the National Highway (NH69-old NH4) running close to and parallel to the proposed 4-lane expressway should be consistent with the structures proposed with the present project proposal and included in the stage 2 compliance of the present proposal. This passage plan should conform to the detailed recommendations of Shri M. S. Negi (Member, EAC) who visited the site during 4-5th March 2022 (as per report dated 22nd March 2022).
7. A research project to study the movement of elephants and other fauna in this landscape, including GPS collaring, with the funding from NHAI, involving regional institutions, researchers, Wild Life Warden/DFO and field staff should be carried out to ensure the efficacy of the animal passages as well as monitor possible repercussions such as wildlife-human conflicts.
8. A Biodiversity Conservation plan, including setting up a rapid

response team and other measures for the mitigation of wildlife-human conflicts, for the entire 48 km stretch of the NHAI road within 10 km of ESZ should be prepared and implemented by the Forest Department of Andhra Pradesh with funding from NHAI.

The proposal was discussed in 72nd meeting SC-NBWL held on 25.04.2023.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

1. The proposed area will be utilized only for the purpose for which the user agency has sought, but not for any other commercial purpose.
2. The User Agency should inform the commencement of the work to the Concerned DFO. The diversion work will be executed under the supervision of the Forest Department
3. The User Agency should invariably demarcate the proposed land for diversion with any suitable permanent stones/pillars. After demarcation only the works should be commenced.
4. The User Agency should not resort to the excavation of the surrounding forest land for collection of the earth to be used. If such excavation is found during the work period or later, the User Agency will be charged with suitable provisions of relevant acts.
5. The User Agency shall obey any other conditions stipulated by the Forest Department as per Acts and Rules.
6. The User Agency will be solely responsible for every violation which attracts the provisions of A.P Forest Act and Forest Conservation Act, 1980.
7. Wildlife Conservation plan for Rs.1698.00 lakhs to be deposited by the User Agency in Wildlife Conservation Projects & CSP (WLC & CSR)
8. The User Agency shall deposit 2% of project cost in BIOSAF account for conservation of the elephant habitat to tackle the Human and Elephant conflicts and Mitigation other ameliorative measures.
9. Wildlife signage boards to be erected in and around the entire project.
10. Work shall be carried out only from dawn to dusk.
11. No labour camps to be established in the protected area.
12. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to the Government of India.

72.2.15 Proposal for use of 1.309 ha of forest land from Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of Ropeway transportation system to MaaMundeshwari Temple in Bhagwanpur Block, Kaimur District, Bihar.

FP/BR/Others/42268/2019

The proposal for use of 1.309 ha of forest land from Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of ropeway transportation system to MaaMundeshwari Temple in Bhagwanpur Block, Kaimur District, Bihar was discussed in the 71st meeting of SCNBWL held on 29.12.2022. After discussions, the Standing Committee decided that the proposal needs to be examined further. It was therefore decided to defer the proposal.

The proposal was further examined in the Ministry. As per the justification provided by the User Agency, Mundeshwari Temple is one of the most ancient functional temples in the world. This tourist destination has no feasible access other than traversing through the sanctuary area. As such, provision of an access route for visitors allowing minimum incursion in the Sanctuary is essential in the interest of wildlife. Bihar RajyaPulNirman Nigam Ltd has proposed the use of 1.309 ha of protected forest land for construction of Mundeshwari ropeway work project under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The requirement of forest land is unavoidable due to non-availability of any alternate land.

The proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting SC-NBWL.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

1. The operation of Ropeway carriage/transit facility for tourism purpose shall be regulated under directions of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar and shall be coordinated as per eco-tourism guidelines so that any adverse impact on wildlife interests are prevented or mitigated.
2. The user/work agency shall ensure that any type of pollution, including sound pollution, in the area during the operation of ropeway is checked and appropriate steps are taken for waste management.
3. During the construction and installation of the ropeway facility in the sanctuary area, the practicable restrictions and precautionary measures as prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar shall be complied with.
4. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to Gol.

72.2.16 Proposal for use of 38.025 ha of forest land from Son ChiryaHukna Bird (Great Indian Bustard) Sanctuary for construction of Western Bypass road, Madhya Pradesh.

FP/MP/ROAD/120435/2021

The proposal for use of 38.025 ha of forest land from Son ChiryaHukna Bird (Great Indian Bustard) Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh for construction of Western Bypass road with 8.3 km length and 45 m to 60 m in width, was discussed in the 71st meeting held on 29.12.2022 and was deferred for re-examination of the mitigation plan including animal passage plan.

Wildlife Institute of India has forwarded its report on the proposal with the following recommendations:

- a. Long underpasses (viaduct) of about 300 m width x 5 m height with noise attenuation at approximately every 3 km along the road through open habitat for crossings of all species, particularly ungulates and large carnivores.
- b. Long overpasses (land bridge) of about 150 m width x 4 m height and underpasses of about 300 m width x 5 m height alternately and with noise attenuation at approximately every 3 km along the road through forest habitat for crossings of all species, particularly ungulates and large carnivores.
- c. Box culverts of 30 m width x 4 m height at every 1 km along the road for medium-size animals (meso-carnivores, small mammals and reptiles).
- d. Pipe culvert of 1.5 m diameter at every approximately 250 m along the road for small animals (hedgehogs, rodents, reptiles, amphibians etc.)
- e. All the above crossing structures need to be appropriately landscaped to make them appear naturalistic for facilitating passage.
- f. Fencing of road sections without passages using 2 m height chain-link-fence buried in concrete 30 cm above and 60 cm below ground (to deter digging by semi/fossorial animals), to reduce vehicle-animal collisions.

The report further mentions that the exact passage and mitigation plan (placement, structures and designs) would require a detailed study of the landscape. Additionally, the plan should include a compensation component as offset for the serious habitat loss (25 sq.km. eastern patch of the WLS rendered ecologically non-viable and potentially dysfunctional for sensitive species) to be caused by the proposed road, as per the hierarchy of measures recommended in WII's guidelines. This compensation /offset plan should include recommendations for the following:

- a. funds for enclosing two grassland patches of >25sq km cumulative area using chain-link-fencing and restoring the enclosed habitat by scientifically informed management practices that benefit grassland species;
- b. expanding grassland habitat within the Sanctuary by suitable restoration activities, so as to consolidate ~200 sq km habitat suitable for GIB for future re-establishment of birds that will benefit associated grassland taxa.

The proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting SC-NBWL.

Chief Wild Warden, Madhya Pradesh agreed with the recommendations of WII.

Decision Taken:. After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

1. Suggestions given by the WII in its report with regard to the animal passage and mitigation plan will be incorporated in the

proposal.

2. The compensation /offset plan given by WII will to be incorporated in the proposal.
3. Annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions will be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to the Government of India.

72.2.17 Proposal for use of 2.2634 ha of forest land in tiger corridor linking Kawal Tiger Reserve with Indravati Tiger Reserve and Tadoba Andheri TR in Maharashtra for widening and strengthening of Kagaznagar to Penchikalpet road from km 20/0 to 25/0 and 25/0 to 30/0 in Kadamba Ext-X RF in Kagaznagar Forest Division of KB Asifabad district, Telangana

FP/TG/ROAD/144272/2021

The proposal were discussed in the 72nd meeting of SCNBWL.

Dr. H.S Singh observed that the violations of FC Act, 1980 and Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 had been committed by the user agencies who had submitted these proposals. He suggested that a holistic view be taken by the Committee with regard to these proposals.

Dr.Sukumar noted that the violations indicate that the linear infrastructures proposed may not have incorporated proper mitigative measures thus posing greater risk for wildlife.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee recommended that all proposals relating to the Telangana may be discussed in a meeting with the Telangana Chief Secretary and officials of the State Forest Department. The District Magistrate and Divisional Forest Officer of the area during the period when the violations were committed should also be present in the meeting.

72.2.18 Re-notifying the boundaries of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary without reducing the area and extent from 700 sq km to 395.608 sq.km. Karnataka

The proposal for re-notification/rationalization of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary with an area of 395.608 sq. km by excluding ~300 sq.km from the area of 695.608 sq. km was considered by the Standing Committee in its 50th meeting held on 7th September, 2018. The justification provided for rationalization of the wildlife sanctuary boundaries mentioned that an area of more than 300 sq km comprising townships, villages and agricultural lands was included inadvertently in the notification of the sanctuary in 1974.

After discussions in the 50th meeting held on 7th September, 2018, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal in principle subject to the conditions that the State Government will submit the draft notification to the MoEF&CC clearly specifying the revised boundaries prepared by the committee constituted by the State Government for the alteration of boundaries giving justification for addition or deletion of the area.

The State Government of Karnataka has submitted the draft notification vide letter dated 19.08.2022 along with the report of the boundary revision committee constituted by the State Government of Karnataka. The justifications and recommendations provided by the committee and forwarded by the State Government include the following:

- a. The earlier boundary description is not rational and was prepared without adequate ground truthing.
- b. The polygon area calculated as per the boundary description of the original notification of 1974 is about 695.608 sq. km which is much more than the notified area of 395.608 sq. km.
- c. Inadvertently, agricultural lands, dwelling places, villages, township, revenue lands, lands released for rehabilitation of the people of dam submerged area have got incorporated in the sanctuary boundary owing to the original boundary descriptions.
- d. Most of the non-forest area is situated in the fringes of the original boundary of the sanctuary.
- e. Inclusion of non-forest areas into the sanctuary area has caused undue inconvenience to the people which results in constant confrontation with the public.
- f. Some of the small isolated patches of forests like sec-4 areas etc. that are located towards the fringes are not suitable to be incorporated into the proposed sanctuary boundary, owing to their small size, being isolated and the status of the settlement rights is yet to be finalized which is a prerequisite for declaration of a sanctuary.
- g. The realigned boundary has been proposed keeping the effective administration and management of the sanctuary in view.

The present draft notification of Shettihalli sanctuary covers an extent of 395.608 sq. km.

The proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting SC-NBWL.

Dr.Sukumar said that rationalization of any Wildlife Sanctuary has to be based on two principles. Firstly, any private land located inside the sanctuary should be demarcated and denotified. Secondly, the State Government should compensate for the loss of area from the sanctuary by providing additional area to the protected area network in the State.

He observed that Shettihalli Sanctuary and Bhadra Tiger Reserve are completely isolated and are situated on the eastern part of the Karnataka. Therefore, any compensation with regard to the rationalization of the boundaries of Shettihalli Sanctuary may be provided in the western part of Karnataka. He also emphasised the need to maintain connectivity between Shettihalli Sanctuary and Bhadra Tiger Reserve.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided that a meeting may be held with the Chief Wild Warden, officials of the Ministry, State Government officials and expert members to examine the new proposed boundaries of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary. Accordingly, the

proposal was deferred till the next meeting.

- 72.2.19 Construction of an Affordable Group Housing in village Dhorka, Sector-95, Gurugram, Haryana of Signature Infrabuild Pvt Ltd. The project site is located in the revenue estate of Village-Dhorka, Sector-95, Gurugram, Haryana on a land measuring 5.1125 acres -regarding.

FP/HR/Others/4493/ 2019.

The proposal was considered by the SCNBWL in its 67th and 68th meetings. In the 68th meeting held on 30th May, 2022, the Standing Committee decided that the State Government officials shall provide all the details regarding the project proposal to the DGF&SS in person and therefore decided to defer the proposal for the next meeting.

The Chief Wild Life Warden, Haryana has informed that he met DGF & SS in person on 29.07.2022 and based on his directions sought the following details from the Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board:

- a. The Status of compliance of measures for disposal of solid waste generated by the project in terms of the provision for Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- b. The compliance of ToR contained in the MoU signed between the agency authorized by the State Pollution Control Board and the Project Proponent.
- c. As whether the measures suggested in the above MoU are sufficient enough to manage the solid waste.
- d. As whether the agency authorized by the Haryana State Pollution Control Board is competent enough technically to handle the disposal of solid waste to be generated under the project.

The Haryana State Pollution Control Board in their report forwarded by the Chief Wild Life Warden has informed that there is no concept like authorized agency for solid waste management on part of HSPCB. The Board has further informed that the project is under construction and there is no solid waste generated within the premises and only excavation work was observed during inspection. Excavated top soil was within the premises of said construction project. The HSPCB had not received the agreement made by the unit for the disposal of the solid waste.

The proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting of SC-NBWL.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee deferred the proposal till compliance of the directions given by SCNBWL.

- 72.2.20 Affordable Group Housing Colony Project at Revenue Estate of Village-Dhorka, Sector-95, Gurugram, Haryana by M/s Sternal Buildcon Private Limited. The total area of project site is 2.96 ha. - regarding.

FP/HR/Others/5208 /2020.

The proposal was considered by the SCNBWL in its 67th and 68th meetings.

In the 68th meeting held on 30th May, 2022, the Standing Committee decided that the State Government officials shall provide all the details regarding the project proposal to the DGF&SS in person and therefore decided to defer the proposal for the next meeting. The factsheet of the proposal is placed as **ANNEXURE-XXVIII**

The Chief Wild Life Warden, Haryana informed that he had met DGF & SS in person on 29.07.2022 and based on his directions sought certain details from the Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board as follows:

- a. The Status of compliance of measures for disposal of solid waste generated by the project in terms of the provision for Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- b. The compliance of ToR contained in the MoU signed between the agency authorized by the State Pollution Control Board and the Project Proponent.
- c. As whether the measures suggested in the above MoU are sufficient enough to manage the solid waste.
- d. As whether the agency authorized by the Haryana State Pollution Control Board is competent enough technically to handle the disposal of solid waste to be generated under the project.

The Haryana State Pollution Control Board in their report forwarded by the Chief Wild Life Warden has informed that there is no concept like authorized agency for solid waste management on part of HSPCB. The Board has further informed that the project is under construction and there is no solid waste generated within the premises and only excavation work was observed during inspection. Excavated top soil was within the premises of said construction project. The HSPCB had not received the agreement made by the unit for the disposal of the solid waste.

Proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting SC-NBWL.

Decision Taken:. After discussion, the Standing Committee deferred the proposal till compliance of the directions given by SCNBWL.

72.2.21 **Tribunal On Its Own Motion Regarding Non-Compliance of EC Conditions By 2000 MW Lower Subansiri Hydel Project-O. A. 18 of 2022 in the National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone**

Diversion of Tale Sanctuary for Lower Subhansri Hydro Electric Project by NHPC was approved by the Standing Committee in its meeting held on 6th May, 2003 with 11 conditions. After approval by the Standing Committee, the State Government filed a Writ Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court to review two conditions viz:

- i. Banning of upstream H.E. Projects on Subhansri River; and
- ii. Declaration of whole catchment of Subhansri as Protected Area.

Hon'ble Supreme Court referred the matter to the Standing Committee for reconsideration of the conditions. The Standing Committee in the 13th meeting held on 12th December, 2008 decided to recommend the proposal modifying the two conditions as follows:

- i. Any proposal in the upper stream of Subhansri river would be considered independently on its merit by the Standing Committee as and when submitted by the proponents.
- ii. State Government would declare 168 sq. kms immediately as Sanctuary and make serious efforts to bring additional 332 sq km reserved forests under the category of Conservation Reserve in consultation with MoEF. The recommendation was subject to the compliance of all other conditions, which have been made in the clearance by Supreme Court as well as in the environmental clearance given by the Ministry.

National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata had taken suo-moto cognizance of the report published in a news article dated 4.2.2022 and filed O. A. 18 of 2022.

State Government of Arunachal Pradesh has stated that the declaration of 332 sq. km. of area as Conservation Reserve as suggested by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is not feasible.

The matter was considered by the Standing Committee in the 71st meeting held on 29.12.2022 wherein it was decided that a committee shall be constituted comprising Dr. R. Sukumar, Member, NBWL, officials from Integrated Regional Office, Shillong and Wildlife Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, representative of Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and Chief Wild Life Warden, Arunachal Pradesh to carry out site inspection, examine the proposal and submit report to the Ministry.

A committee was constituted by the Ministry vide office memorandum no. 1-8/2022 WL dated 6th February, 2023. The committee carried out site inspection and hearing of stakeholders from 21.02.2023 to 25.02.2023. The Committee has submitted its report on 27.03.2023.

Dr. Sukumar briefed the Standing Committee regarding the recommendations of the report. The recommendations are as follows:

1. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh should take steps to notify the Subansiri-Dulung elephant corridor within the Panir Reserved Forest and Dulung Reserved Forest and prepare and implement a management plan with the funding support from the NHPC to ensure that elephants continue to move across this critical passage.
2. The water spread area up to the full reservoir level should be declared as conservation reserve and ecotourism activities may be actively promoted.
3. Along the banks of the water spread area of the Lower Subansiri reservoir, the State Government shall explore the possibility to declare community reserves in order to meet any further shortfall up to the target of 332 sq. km.
4. The water depth and e-flow required for the key aquatic wildlife species need to be maintained during the operational phase of the

project. The impact of the water flow should be monitored on yearly basis. A committee comprising members from Integrated Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam Forest Departments, Scientific Institutions and local NGOs may be constituted for the purpose.

5. The NHPC should provide funds for consultation with local communities as well as survey and demarcation of the areas proposed for declaration as community reserves/conservation reserves as per the conditions imposed by the SCNBWL.
 6. The State Government should create awareness among the people about the constitution of conservation reserves or community reserves, their management through management committees and the representation of local people in these committees.
 7. The State Government should take measures to build capacity of the forest department staff including the Divisional Forest Officers and submit proposals under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Development of Wildlife Habitats and involve the local communities more for protection and management of protected areas.
 8. A study may be conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India and regional scientific institutes to determine the ecological impacts of peaking due to Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project and NHPC should compensate for mitigation of those impacts.
- Chief Wild Life Warden, Arunachal Pradesh suggested that a study may be conducted with funding support from NHPC to prepare a plan for Panir Reserved Forest and Dulung Reserved Forest to ensure that elephants continue to move across this critical passage.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing committee decided that a study would be conducted by WII to prepare a plan for ensuring that elephants continue to move across Panir Reserved Forest and Dulung Reserved Forest. Accordingly, the proposal was deferred.

- 72.2.22 Proposal for diversion of 82.54 ha of land [i.e. for construction of Golf Course (42.14 ha) and Resort (40.40 ha)] falling within the Eco-Sensitive Zone of KeibulLamjao National Park and KhongjaingambaChing Sanctuary for the proposed Loktak Lake Eco-Tourism Project of Tourism Department, Manipur
FP/MN/Others/5539/2020.

The proposal for diversion of 82.54 ha of land [i.e. for construction of Golf Course (42.14 ha) and Resort (40.40 ha)] falling within the Eco-Sensitive Zone of KeibulLamjao National Park and KhongjaingambaChing Sanctuary for the proposed Loktak Lake Eco-Tourism Project of Tourism Department, Manipur was considered by the Standing Committee in its 67th and 68th meetings.

2. The Standing Committee in its 68th meeting held on 30th May 2022 decided that the State Government of Manipur shall organise a two-day joint meeting of Wildlife Division and Wetlands Division of the Ministry, IIT

Roorkee, State Forest Department, Manipur and State Pollution Control Board, Manipur in the month of July to discuss the wise use plan of Loktak Wetland.

3. The State Government of Manipur organized an online meeting on “Wise Use Plan of Loktak Wetland, Manipur and construction of Golf Course & Resort” held on 6th October 2022 under the Chairmanship of the Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest, Environment & CC), Manipur. The following actions were decided in the said meeting:

- a. Loktak Development Authority (LDA) may pursue the matter with MoEF&CC for obtaining approval to the draft Wise Use Plan/Integrated Management Plan of Loktak Lake.
- b. The MoEF&CC shall examine the draft wise use plan of the Loktak Wetland submitted by LDA for according approval at an early date.
- c. A copy of the record of discussion shall be provided to the Wildlife Division, MoEF&CC, Govt. of India for further necessary action.
- d. Tourism Department to inform about the status of the proposed Eco-Tourism Project/Eco-restoration activities.

4. The proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting SC-NBWL.

5. JS (Wetland division) informed that a meeting was held on 5th April, 2023 in the presence of Hon’ble Minister for Environment forest and Climate Change in which the following decisions were taken:

- a. LDA will submit its comments on the Appraisal Report (AR) submitted on IMP of Loktak lake by IIT Roorkee along-with its recommendations.
- b. LDA will submit a revised IMP for consideration of the Ministry under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of NPCA in case they require fund from NPCA. The IMP should take into cognizance the comments made by IIT Roorkee and address these satisfactorily in the proposal. A statement to this effect may be included within the communication accompanying the IMP submission. The MoEF&CC will consider the proposal on priority as per the cost sharing formula between the Central and State government and the funding norms of NPCA.
- c. The Government of Manipur will submit an action plan along with a timeline and a map with clear demarcation of the wetland boundary following guidelines provided by MoEF&CC and as per provisions laid by the Ramsar Secretariat for removal of Loktak Lake from Montreux Record. The RIS of Loktak Lake is to be updated on priority basis by LDA.
- d. MoEF&CC shall take up the issue of *Ithi* Barrage operation with the Ministry of Power upon receiving all the necessary documentation pertaining to water allocation issues, from LDA.
- e. Nature-based tourism actions within the management plan will be converged with *AmritDharohar*. LDA shall propose specific actions to be incorporated within the revised IMP as well as in ADB funded Ecotourism proposal aligned with *AmritDharohar*.
- f. Bathymetric assessment to be conducted for this site by the LDA

through agencies such as Chilika Development Authority (CDA), National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) etc. WISA will facilitate the assessment through LDA.

Decision Taken:

After discussion, the Standing Committee recommended that a meeting may be convened in Manipur to discuss the proposal with officials of the State Forest Department, Loktak Development Authority and other stakeholders.

- 72.2.23 Proposal for use of 2.0243 ha from Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary for renewal/Extension of already leased reserve forest land to Shri Shukdev Ashram SevaSamiti at Village-SukratalBangar in DistrictMuzaffarnagar(changed name of User Agency is Shri ShukdevAshramSwamiKalyandevSeva Trust, Sukratal, district Muzaffarnagar).

FP/UP/Others/157199/2022

The proposal is for use of 2.0243 ha from Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary for renewal/extension of already leased reserve forest land to Shri Shukdev Ashram SevaSamiti at Village-SukratalBangar in District-Muzaffarnagar(changed name of User Agency is Shri Shukdev Ashram Swami KalyandevSeva Trust, Sukratal,districtMuzaffarnagar).

The proposal was discussed in the 71st meeting held on 29th December, 2022 wherein the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal till the notification of the sanctuary with altered boundaries in accordance with the recommendations of the Standing Committee in its 59th meeting held on 5th October, 2020.

The State Government of Uttar Pradesh vide notification dated 6th February, 2023 has notified Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary under section 26A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 over an area of 1159.163251 sq.km.

The proposal was discussed in the 72nd meeting of SC-NBWL.

Chief Wild Life Warden, Uttar Pradesh informed that the instant proposal lies within the ESZ area.

Decision Taken:

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

1. Protection and mitigation measures for wildlife shall be ensured as per standard practice in such cases.
2. Land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
3. Since the lease involves reserve forest land hence forest clearance under forest conservation act 1980 will be required.
4. User agency will ensure that none of their employee/worker shall indulge into any kind of unlawful activities and will follow. The

provision of wildlife (conservation) Act, 1972. If this happens then user agency shall be held responsible for the same.

5. The project proponent shall undertake plantation work in an area of 2 ha. by planting the native species in the nearby area adjacent to the project area as proposed by Protected Area Manager, for which necessary finance will be provided by the user agency.
6. The user agency shall clear all the dues in respect to the lease rent of the past period if there are any, and ensure the timely payment of the lease rent to the authority concerned.
7. The lease rent as per guidelines of Government of India shall be borne by the user agency.
8. The instruction/orders passed by the State Govt./Central Govt. and directions passed by Hon'ble High Court, Hon'ble NGT and Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding such project shall be complied by the user agency.
9. The lighting in the campus of the said Ashram should be minimum and it should not be facing toward the sanctuary in order to reduce negative impact on the animals and birds.
10. The user agency shall be responsible for any loss to the flora/fauna in the surroundings and therefore shall take all possible measures to conserve the same.

72.2.24 Proposal for setting up of the Retail Outlet for total project area 0.22699 ha of forest land from Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary (0.1789 ha Private land +0.04809 ha of protected forest land for entry and exit of vehicles) situated on the right hand side of Meerut-Bareilly road (NH-709) within Km.01, (Chainage 0.920) at village Garh Banger, Tehsil Garhmukhteshwar, District Hapur, Uttar Pradesh by M/s Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

FP/UP/Others/60710/2020

The proposal is for setting up a Retail Outlet for total project area 0.22699 ha of forest land from Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary (0.1789 ha Private land +0.04809 ha of protected forest land for entry and exit of vehicles) situated on the right hand side of Meerut-Bareilly road (NH-709) within Km.01, (Chainage 0.920) at village Garh Banger, Tehsil Garhmukhteshwar, District Hapur, Uttar Pradesh by M/s Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

The proposal was discussed in the 71st meeting held on 29th December, 2022 wherein the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal till the notification of the sanctuary with altered boundaries in accordance with the recommendations of the Standing Committee in its 59th meeting held on 5th October, 2020.

The State Government of Uttar Pradesh vide notification dated 6th February,

2023 has notified Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary under section 26A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 over an area of 1159.163251 sq.km.

Chief Wild Life Warden, Uttar Pradesh informed that the site of the instant proposal lies 1.74 Km away from ESZ area.

Decision Taken:

The standing committee took note of the submission of CWLW submissions and decided that the proposal does not need recommendation of SCNBL as the proposed site falls outside the Eco-Sensitive Zone of the Sanctuary.

AGENDA ITEM No. 3

(Policy Matters, Court Orders)

72.3.1 Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 1972

The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022 after passing by both the houses of the Parliament and receiving assent from Hon'ble President of India on 19th December, 2022 was published in the Government of India Gazette on 20th December, 2022. The Bill amends the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The amended Act has now come into force from 1st April, 2023. Key amendments to the Act include:

Provisions for CITES: CITES is an international agreement between governments to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. The amended Act incorporates a new Chapter VB to implement the provisions of CITES and prescribes designation of CITES Management and Scientific authorities, a separate schedule IV for CITES listed species, prohibition of export, import, re-export and introduction from the sea of specimens of species listed in this schedule, confiscation of and penalties for violations.

Rationalising schedules: The amended Act has four schedules as follows (i) two schedules I and II for wild animals to two, (ii) Schedule III for specified plants and (iii) inserts a new schedule IV for specimens listed in the Appendices under CITES (scheduled specimens). Schedule for vermin has been removed.

Standing Committee of the State Board for Wild Life: A new section 6A has been incorporated to provide for constitution of Standing Committee for the State Board for Wild Life in line with that for the National Board for Wild Life.

Invasive alien species: The Act empowers the central government to regulate or prohibit the import, trade, possession or proliferation of invasive alien species. Invasive alien species refers to plant or animal species which are not native to India and whose introduction may

adversely impact wild life or its habitat. The central government may authorise an officer to seize and dispose the invasive species.

Control of sanctuaries: The Act now entrusts the Chief Wild Life Warden to control, manage and protect in accordance with the management plans for the sanctuary. These plans will be prepared as per guidelines of the central government, and as approved by the Chief Warden. For sanctuaries falling under special areas, the management plan must be prepared after due consultation with the concerned Gram Sabha. Special areas include a Scheduled Area or areas where the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is applicable. Scheduled Areas are economically backward areas with a predominantly tribal population, notified under the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution.

Conservation reserves: Under the Act, state governments may declare areas adjacent to national parks and sanctuaries as a conservation reserve, for protecting flora and fauna, and their habitat. The Bill empowers the central government to also notify a conservation reserve.

Surrender of captive animals: The Bill provides for any person to voluntarily surrender any captive animals or animal products to the Chief Wild Life Warden. No compensation will be paid to the person for surrendering such items. The surrendered items become property of the state government.

Penalties: The Act prescribes imprisonment terms and fines for violating the provisions of the Act. The Bill increases these fines.

Species involved	Before Amendment	Species involved	After amendment
In case of wild animals listed in Schedules other than Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II	Up to Rs 25,000	In case of schedule II and appendices II and III of Schedule IV	Up to Rs 1,00,000
In case of Schedule I	At least Rs 10,000	In case of Schedule I and Appendix I of Schedule IV	At least Rs 25,000

Further, the maximum compounding fee that can be collected for composition on an offence has been increased from twenty-five thousand rupees to five lakh rupees.

Central Government to issue directions: The section 62B of the amended Act empowers the Central Government to call for any

information or report from a State Government or any such other agency or body or issue any direction to a State Government or any such other agency or body for effective implementation of the provisions of the Act for the protection, conservation and management of wild life in the country.

Decision Taken: The standing committee took note of the above submission.

72.3.2 **Permission for hunting of Schedule- species under Section -12 of The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**

Section 12 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for grant of permission for "Hunting" of Wild animal for the purposes of education, scientific research and scientific management, by the Chief Wild Life Warden, with prior permission of the State Government. However, in case the wild animal to be dealt is listed in Schedule-I of the Act, prior permission of Central Government is required.

The State Chief Wild Life Wardens have been forwarding proposals to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, seeking approval of Central Government for a wide range of activities like capture of wild animals, radio-collaring of animals, collection of blood, tissue samples, translocation etc. for the purpose of scientific research and/or wildlife management.

The proposals seeking permission of Central Government under Section 12 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 pertain to critically endangered species and, therefore, need to be considered in the background of the risks involved in the operation and precautions to be taken while undertaking the requisite activity, and the experience of handlers in dealing with such animals.

In view of this, a format for submission of proposals for permission of Central Government under Section 12 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been prepared by the Ministry. It is proposed that in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 62B of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (as amended in 2022), the State Governments may, henceforth, use this template for submission of proposals for permission of Central Government under Section 12 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The format is as follows:

Format for submission of proposals for permission of Central Government under Section 12 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

1	a. Name of the applicant	
	b. Address of applicant with aadhaar number and mobile number	

2	Title and duration of project under which permission is sought					
3	Whether it involves capture of live animals					Yes/No
4	If 'Yes', the details of animals to be captured					
Common name	Scientific name	Age of animal	Sex of the animal	Place/location proposed to capture the animal	Number of individual proposed to be captured	Size of specimens (in case of corals, etc.)
5	In case of sample collection					
Common name	Scientific name	Age of animal	Sample details (Tissue/blood, skin, hair, etc.)	Place/location proposed to capture the animal	Quantity of sample to be collected	
6	The experience available with the applicant for the work proposed and the action arising under Section 12					
7	The risk involved to the wild species concerned, in terms of likelihood of mortality and impact thereof on the population					
8	Details of precautionary steps proposed to be taken					
9	Analysis of importance of the proposed activity on management of wildlife and conservation of species concerned particularly.					
10	Specific views of the Chief Wild Life Warden on the proposal					
11	Details of the present project (<i>attach synopsis with detailed methodology for capture, outcome of the project, etc.</i>)					
12	Details of previous permissions granted by the MoEFCC to the same applicant (attach copies of letters)					
13	Copy of the report for previous permission					

	granted by Ministry to the same applicant	
14	Any other point that is to be brought to the notice of MoEFCC	

Decision Taken:

It was decided that the above format may be circulated to the Chief Wild Life Wardens to seek their comments.

72.3.3 Hon'ble Supreme Court of India order dated 8.2.2023 in the W.P. (C) no. 202 of 1995

As per section 33 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Chief Wild Life Warden shall be the authority who shall control, manage and protect all sanctuaries in accordance with such management plans for the sanctuary approved by him as per the guidelines issued by the Central Government and in case the sanctuary also falls under the Scheduled Areas or areas where the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is applicable, in accordance with the management plan for such sanctuary prepared after due consultation with the Gram Sabha concerned and for that purpose, within the limits of any sanctuary,—

(a) may construct such roads, bridges, buildings, fences or barrier gates, and carry out such other works as he may consider necessary for the purposes of such sanctuary:

Provided that no construction of commercial tourist lodges, hotels, zoos and safari parks shall be undertaken inside a sanctuary except with the prior approval of the National Board.

(b) shall take such steps as will ensure the security of wild animals in the sanctuary and the preservation of the sanctuary and wild animals therein;

(c) may take such measures, in the interests of wild life, as he may consider necessary for the improvement of any habitat;

(d) may regulate, control or prohibit, in keeping with the interests of wild life, the grazing or movement of live-stock.

Further, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated 5.10.2015 in W.P. (C) No. 202/1995 directed that all matters for grant of permissions for implementation of projects in areas falling in National parks/sanctuaries, including rationalization of boundaries etc. will be considered by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife ("NBWL") and also requested the NBWL to furnish a copy of the orders passed by it within 30 days' time to the C.E.C who if, for any reason, they are aggrieved by the decision of the Standing Committee of NBWL to approach this Court by filing an appropriate petition/application.

Hon'ble Supreme Court while considering the Contempt Petition (C) NO.319/2021, I.A. Nos.186910/2022 and 20650/2023 (ITEM NO.8.) was pleased to pass the following directions:

1. *Issue notice in I.A. Nos. 186910/2022 and 20650/2023 to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the*

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), returnable on 15.03.2023.

- 2. In addition to the usual mode, liberty is granted to the petitioner to serve notice through the Standing Counsel for the respondent/State.*
- 3. A perusal of the report(s) would reveal that various constructions have been carried out within the area of the Tiger Reserve. The photograph would show that a cordoned area has been constructed between the Tiger Reserve.*
- 4. Mr. Abhishek Attri, learned counsel appearing for the State of Uttarakhand, submits that the concept of jungle tourism permits such a safari to be constructed in jungle areas, and according to the learned counsel, such a phenomenon is acceptable worldwide.*
- 5. Prima facie, we do not appreciate the necessity of having a zoo inside Tiger Reserves or National Parks. The concept of protecting Tiger Reserves and National Parks is that the fauna must be permitted to reside in the natural habitat and not the artificial environs.*
- 6. We, therefore, call upon the NTCA to explain the rationale behind granting such a permission for permitting Tiger Safaris within Tiger Reserves and National Parks.*
- 7. Until further orders, we restrain the authorities from making any construction within the areas notified as Tiger Reserves and National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.*
- 8. The State of Uttarakhand is directed to file its reply in I.A. Nos. 186910/2022 and 20650/2023, within three weeks.*

ADG (WL) pointed out that the order is with regard to Rajaji Tiger reserve.

Decision Taken:

The standing committee took note of the above submission.

72.3.4 Management of Grassland ecosystems (Policy matter proposed by Dr. H. S. Singh)

Achievements of the MoEFCC and the State Forest Departments for conservation of Indian wildlife are noteworthy but there are major gaps in certain areas, especially policy, planning and institutional arrangement for conservation of the tropical grassland ecosystems of India.

There is policy, planning and institutional approach for conservation of forested habitats, wetlands, mangrove and coral reef. Planning and institutional arrangements such as Project Tiger, NTCA, Project Elephant, Project Lion, Wetlands, Mangroves and Coral Reefs have been placed from the level of MoEFCC, New Delhi to the State Levels and results from such arrangements are impressive.

Semi-arid and arid regions in the Western India - Dry region of Maharashtra covering about half dozen districts from Sangli to Ahmednagar districts; semi-arid region of Madhya Pradesh covering over

half dozen districts from Indore-Ratlam-Dhar-Jhabua-Alirajpur; Saurashtra and Kutch regions in Gujarat and semi-arid and arid zone of Rajasthan had supported extensive grasslands. Maximum number of the threatened wildlife species - medium and small mammals and birds occur in the tropical grasslands. Grassland ecosystems are home for important mammals such as Blackbuck, Chinkara, Indian Wolf, Caracal, Desert Cat, Desert Fox etc. Grassland ecosystem is also habitat for the majority of threatened birds such as the Great Indian bustard, Lesser Florican, Houbara Bustard, other grassland birds and raptors. The institutions from MoEFCC to the State level are tiger-elephant-lion-wetland centric, which is desirable for conservation of the flagship species. But tropical grasslands and wildlife therein are undermined over a period. In the absence of a focused conservation programme and priority from the MoEFCC to the State Forest Departments, grasslands are fragmented and degraded. Some of the big sanctuaries in grassland such as GIB Sanctuary in Maharashtra and two sanctuaries for GIB and Lesser Florican in Madhya Pradesh and Narayan Sanctuary in Gujarat are partly denotified and many more may land in similar situation due to progress of illegal cultivations and their fragmentation.

In the background of the facts mentioned above, there is a need of establishing a Grassland Conservation Cell/Unit in the MoEFCC to evolve policy, programme and institutional arrangement for protection, restoration and consolidation of conservation of tropical grassland ecosystem in India.

Decision Taken:

The standing committee took note of above submission for discussion and deferred the proposal till the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO 4

72.4 (Fresh Proposals falling inside / Outside the Protected Area

- 72.4.1 Proposal for use of 19.13 ha of forest land from Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary (part of NagarjunasagarSrisailem Tiger Reserve) for construction of Varikapudisela foreshore of Nagarjunasagar Reservoir in Veldurthi Mandal of Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh in favour of Superintendent Engineer, Irrigation Circle Office.

FP/AP/Pipeline/144181/2021

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 19.13 ha of forest land from Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary (part of NagarjunasagarSrisailem Tiger Reserve) for construction of Varikapudisela foreshore of Nagarjunasagar Reservoir in Veldurthi

Mandal of Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh in favour of Superintendent Engineer, Irrigation Circle Office.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wildlife Warden, State Board for Wildlife and State Government.

Decision Taken:

After discussion, the standing committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. The User Agency should strictly follow the conditions while executing the work.
2. The status of the area shall remain as RF/PF.
3. The proposed area will be utilized only for the purpose for which the User Agency has sought, but not for any other commercial purpose.
4. The User Agency should inform the commencement of the work. The diversion work will be executed under the supervision of the Forest Department
5. The User Agency should invariably demarcate the proposed land for diversion with any suitable permanent stones / pillars. After File No.EFS02-21024/48/2020-WILD LIFE SEC-PCCF demarcation only the works should be commenced.
6. The User Agency should not resort to excavation of the surrounding forest land for collection of earth to be used. If such excavation is found during work period or later, the User Agency will be charged under suitable provisions of relevant acts.
7. The User Agency shall obey to any other conditions stipulated by the Forest Department as per Acts and Rules.
8. The User Agency will be solely responsible for every violation which attracts the provisions of A.P. Forest Act, 1967, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
9. The User Agency shall give an undertaking in accordance with the conditions stipulated.
10. Wildlife Mitigation Plan for Rs.235.50 lakh to be deposited Wildlife Conservation Projects & CSR (WLC & CSR).
11. Wildlife signage boards to be erected in and around the entire project
12. Work shall be carried out only from 6 a.m to 6 p.m.
- 13.No labour camps to be established in the protected area.
14. Explosives shall not be used inside the TR and ESZ.
15. The pumps and motors shall be operational only from July to December as and when required.
16. Pipelines shall be laid underground and alignment will be done in such a manner to avoid tree felling in the core area of the Tiger Reserve.
17. A patrolling post/Forest Guard Post shall be constructed along with the pump house & sub-station on the bank of Varakapudisela stream at the cost of user agency.

18. No labour camps shall be allowed inside the core area of the Tiger Reserve.

19. Construction works shall be allowed only between sunrise and sunset.

20. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to Gol

72.4.2

FP/AR/ROAD/148555/2021

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 103.95 ha of forest land from Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of MipiAndrala road in Dibang Valley district, Arunachal Pradesh.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wildlife Warden, State Board for Wildlife and State Government.

Dr. Sukumar said that best practices in terms of construction and providing the animal passage plan should be adopted.

ADG(WL) noted that the cost of mitigation measures has been mentioned as Rs.346 lakh by the User Agency whereas DFO has mentioned it as Rs. 480 lakhs. Chief Wild Life Warden, Arunachal Pradesh clarified that the cost of the proposed mitigation measures is Rs.480 lakh.

Dr. H.S. Singh said that the proposed animal passage plan is weak since it does not support the movement of elephants.

Decision Taken:

After discussion, the Standing Committee decided that WII will re-examine the proposed animal passage plan and submit its report by next meeting. Accordingly, the proposal was deferred.

72.4.3

Proposal for use of 6.18 ha of forest land from Pakke Tiger Reserve for Flood Protection Work near General ground at Up-Stream side of Decorai Irrigation Project at Seijosa in PakkeKessang District, Arunachal Pradesh.

FP/AR/Others/122946/2021

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 6.18 ha of forest land from Pakke Tiger Reserve for Flood Protection Work near General ground at Up-Stream side of Decorai Irrigation Project at Seijosa in PakkeKessang District, Arunachal Pradesh.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wildlife Warden, State Board for Wildlife and State Government.

Decision Taken:

After discussion, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. Considering the presence of wildlife in the area, moderate sloped ramps/stairs should be constructed at regular intervals (preferably every 500 meter) along the embankment and the width of the ramps/stairs should be adequate enough (around 20-30 m) for allowing passage of group living animals such as elephants.
2. The Project Proponent has informed that locally available materials would be used for construction. This should be subject to consideration of extraction of river bed materials on water flow and channel dynamics. Otherwise, construction materials may have to be procured from outside and an appropriate muck disposal plan should be prepared for approval of competent authority of Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department.
3. All construction work should be during daytime and no labor camp should be established within forested areas.
4. Once the project is implemented, the forest department should keep vigilance over the dam by constructing manned watch tower(s) at strategic location(s) near the dam at their cost of the user agency.

5. The CWLW, Arunachal Pradesh to have appropriate mechanism in place for compliance of the conditions laid in this OM during various phases of project implementation

72.4.4

Proposal for use of 2.54 ha from Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary for beautification of BrariGhat (RFD) Bhagalpur under Smart City Mission, Bihar.

FP/BR/Others/6298/2022

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 2.54 ha from Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary for beautification of BrariGhat (RFD) Bhagalpur under Smart City Mission, Bihar.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wildlife Warden, State Board for Wildlife and State Government.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the standing committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. During construction in the sanctuary area, the user agency shall not destroy or change or regulate the dolphin habitat, including stopping or changing or regulating the flow of water.
2. The user agency shall not harm, exploit or destroy any wildlife in the sanctuary area and shall strive to ensure the same.

3. No plastic, solid or liquid waste or sewage shall be released/thrown in the river.

4. The work will be not be executed between sunset and sunrise.

5. High mast light and street lights shall be installed in a manner that the lighted portions remain within the civil work of riverfront and do not fall in the sanctuary area during night. For this purpose, low height pathway lights shall be used in river bank portion so that only the walking area gets illuminated.

6. Light and sound show as well as water sports in the sanctuary area are harmful from point of view of wildlife and its management, hence it will not be allowed.

7. The user agency shall bear the cost of mitigation measures as per the estimate submitted and appended by the Divisional Forest Officer-cum-Wildlife Warden, Bhagalpur to ensure wildlife and aquatic flora/fauna conservation during pre-construction, construction and post-construction phases. This amount of Rs. 2.02 crores, which is less than 2% of the project cost, shall be deposited by the user agency in CAMPA, under the head 'Additional Charges for Protected Areas'.

8. Every possible effort will be done to minimize the effect of construction on wildlife in that area and noise shall be kept under limits.

9. No debris shall be dumped in the river. The construction debris will be disposed of outside the sanctuary and at a safe distance.

10. All debris originating from riverbed will be checked for fossils before being removed out of river and its flood plain. Any fossil found shall be deposited with the Wildlife Warden, Bhagalpur.

11. The project proponent/user agency shall comply with any additional conditions imposed by Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar as deemed necessary in the interest of wildlife protection and management in the sanctuary area.

12. Orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed in IA No. 1000 of 2003 in W.P. (C) No. 202 of 1995 T.N. Godavarman Vs Union of India & Ors. and any such other order/orders passed in this context shall be complied with.

72.4.5 Proposal for use of 4.22 ha from Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary for construction of 2x2 lane Bridge across river Ganga between Sultanganj and Aguwanihat with approach Road connecting NH-80 and NH-31, Bihar.

FP/BR/ROAD/36499/2018

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 4.22 ha from Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary for construction of 2x2 lane Bridge across river Ganga between Sultanganj and Aguwanihat with approach Road connecting NH-80 and NH-31, Bihar.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wildlife Warden, State Board for Wildlife and State Government.

Decision Taken: After discussion the standing committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. The user agency shall not stop or change or regulate the flow of water during construction of the bridge.
2. The user agency shall not harm, exploit or destroy any wildlife in the sanctuary area and shall strive to ensure the same.
3. The legal status of the proposed area will remain as part of the sanctuary and will remain under control of the Environment, Forests and Climate Change Department, Bihar.
4. Every possible effort will be done to minimize the effect of construction on wildlife in that area and noise shall be kept under limits.
5. No debris shall be dumped in the river. The construction debris will be disposed off outside the sanctuary and at a safe distance.
6. All debris originating from riverbed will be checked for fossils before being removed out of river and its flood plain. Any fossil found shall be deposited with the Wildlife Warden, Bhagalpur.
7. Except for pier construction, the river bed will not be disturbed.
8. The work will be executed in daytime from dawn to dusk.
9. The project proponent/user agency shall comply with any additional conditions imposed by Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar as deemed necessary in the interest of wildlife protection and management in the sanctuary area.

72.4.6 Proposal for use of 157.93 ha Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of 220 kV Phyang-Diskit S/C Transmission Line under plan PMDP-2015, UT of Ladakh.

FP/LA/TRANS/151731/2022

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 157.93 ha Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of 220 kV Phyang-Diskit S/C Transmission Line under plan PMDP-2015, UT of Ladakh.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, State Board for Wild Life and State Government.

ADG suggested that in view of the various infrastructural projects being undertaken in Ladakh, a study may be conducted on the pattern of wildlife movement in Ladakh.

Decision Taken:

After discussion, the standing committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. A study may be conducted by Wildlife Institute of India with regard to the impact of infrastructural development in Ladakh on the movement of wildlife.
2. The land shall be used for the purpose stated in the Wildlife Clearance order. Any diversion of land to any other purpose except the stated purpose shall not be admissible without fresh approval from the Standing Committee of NBWL.
3. The User Agency shall pay Net Present Value (NPV) and other charges in accordance with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the MoEF&CC guidelines.
4. The User Agency shall be responsible for obtaining requisite clearances under any other law in vogue, including Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Environmental Protection Act, 1986, if applicable before the initiation of work.
5. User Agency will report accidents of any wild animals and deposit the carcasses to the office of concerned wildlife warden to be dealt according to the prevailing laws.
6. User agency shall abide by all the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, directions of the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, conditions imposed in the Wildlife Clearance sanction and orders of the UT Administration in force and as may be issued from time to time.
7. The project activities shall be liable to periodic check by the officers/officials of the Wildlife Protection Department. The officer(s)/Officials may order stoppage of work if it is found that any provisions of the preceding clause have not been complied with.
8. Dumping of solid and liquid waste shall be dealt with as per the provisions of Environmental Protection Act, 1986 and rules made there under.
9. Detailed muck disposal plan shall be prepared by the user agency and approved by the chief Wildlife Warden/Wildlife Warden before commencement of work on ground. If any

deviation from the approved disposal plan is noticed, the permission granted for transmission line is liable to be revoked. The officers/officials of the wildlife protection department shall have unhindered access to the project site for discharging of their duties.

72.4.7 Proposal for use of 2.3 ha of forest land from Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary which is a part of buffer zone of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve for strengthening and upgradation of Morni to Metshindi, district border road MDR-120 for Morni, Arav, Valvan, Metshindi villagers in Tal. Mahabaleshwar Dist. Satara.

FP/MH/ROAD/155542/2022.

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 2.3 ha of forest land from Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary which is a part of buffer zone of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve for strengthening and upgradation of Morni to Metshindi, district border road MDR-120 for Morni, Arav, Valvan, Metshindi villagers in Tal. Mahabaleshwar Dist. Satara.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, the State Board for Wild Life and the State Government.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. Speed Breakers in forest area at every 200-300 meter & at every sharp turn.
2. Speed limit in Sanctuary area should be 20 km./hr. The state of the art speedometer, should be erected erect along the road like those are in Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
3. Erect signages of do's & don'ts along the road in consultation with Forest Department.
4. Permanent ban for heavy vehicles during night & outsider vehicle from dusk to dawn. Only vehicles of local villagers may be allowed during night.
5. Canopy ladder for arboreal mammals like Giant Squirrel, Hanuman Langoor, bonnet macaque etc. to cross the road should be laid whenever possible.
6. Necessary mitigation measures for Herepetofauna for safe crossing of road should be implemented.
7. During construction period, technology should used which cause minimum disturbance to wildlife.
8. Proper mechanism for disposal of waste materials should be under taken.
9. Labour camp shall not be established inside tiger reserve.'
10. No work shall be allowed after sunset.
11. 1% amount of total project cost should be deposited as penalty for the violation with Sahyadri Tiger Reserve Conservation

Foundation.

12. Project proponent should deposit 2 % of the total project cost which falls under the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary which is part of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve Buffer Area Executive Director, Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Sahyadri Tiger Conservation Foundation, Kolhapur for development of wildlife conservation and management of wildlife in the state.
13. Linear infrastructures have been a major impediment for recovery of tiger population in this biodiversity rich landscape. Therefore, it is important that all developmental projects are appropriately mitigated. Currently, no mitigation plan has been proposed by the Project Proponent. Therefore, the State Government shall prepare and implement a mitigation plan/ animal passage plan in consultation with the User Agency and NTCA, Regional office, keeping in view the guidelines on mitigation measures for linear infrastructure.

72.4.8

Proposal for use of 14.0718 ha of forest land from Pench-Bor-Melghat Tiger corridor for up-gradation of Nagpur Katol National Highway NH- 353 J from existing KM 13+000 (Outer ring road, Nagpur) to 62+900 (Katol Bypass) two/ four lane with paved shoulder in state of Maharashtra in favor of National Highway Authority of India.

FP/MH/ROAD/37601/2018

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 14.0718 ha of forest land from Pench-Bor-Melghat Tiger corridor for upgradation of Nagpur Katol National Highway NH- 353 J from existing KM 13+000 (Outer ring road, Nagpur) to 62+900 (Katol Bypass) two/ four lane with paved shoulder in state of Maharashtra in favour of National Highway Authority of India.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wildlife Warden, State Board for Wildlife and State Government.

Dr. H.S. Singh noted that the highway was being designed for very high speed and the animal passage plan should be re-examined by NTCA for ensuring the safety of wild animals.

Decision Taken: The proposal was recommended in principle. However, it was decided that a virtual meeting would be held with WII, the expert members of SCNBWL and NTCA for re-examination of the animal passage plan. Final approval will be given after the members are satisfied with the proposed animal passage plan.

72.4.9

Proposal for use of 121.58 ha of forest land in the tiger corridor connecting TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve with Kawal Tiger Reserve for Durgapur extension deep Open Cast mining project by Western Coalfields Ltd, Maharashtra.

FP/MH/MIN/6638/2022

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 121.58 ha of forest land in the tiger corridor connecting TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve with Kawal Tiger Reserve for Durgapur extension deep Open Cast mining project by Western Coalfields Ltd, Maharashtra.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden, the State Board for Wild Life and the State Government.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the standing committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. The project agency should implement all the mitigation measures that are proposed in mitigation plan proposed by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and the committee under the Chairmanship of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Maharashtra State.
2. 2% (Rs.1.37 Crore) amount of project cost falling in Tiger Corridor of TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve-Kanhargaon Wildlife Sanctuary-Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary shall be deposited by project agency for wildlife conservation and management activities in the State with the TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve Conservation Foundation.
3. In order to prevent entry of wild animals, the entire mining area should be fenced with solar/ electric pulse monitored fences of at least 10 feet height.
4. The vehicular transportation should be avoided and be replaced with modern closed conveyor system. Belt conveyors should be fully covered to avoid air borne dust.
5. Control blasting techniques with proper delay detonators and explosives should be used for mitigation of dust generation and ground vibration during blasting operations.
6. Installation of Wind barriers should be done for dust trapping.
7. Thick green belt of 30-40 m width to be provided to mitigate/check the dust pollution. 3-tier avenue plantation should also be developed along vacant areas, storage yard, loading/ transfer points and also along internal roads/ main approach roads.
8. A survey carried out by WII in the area demonstrated that WCL has used Prosopis for reclamation and this has proliferated profusely. From 2004 till 2013, the Prosopis spread was estimated to be from 8.33% in 2004 to 65.83% in 2013. This is unwarranted since this has suppressed the diversity of native fauna thereby reducing forage availability and provided suitable cover for leopards and wild pigs causing incidents of human wildlife conflicts. The WCL, in consultation with Maharashtra Forest Department, should take the responsibility of removing Prosopis in the existing plantation areas (WCL) within Chandrapur in a phased manner by replacing it with native species, which is likely to help in reducing the human-wildlife conflicts in the area.

9. WCL should carry out a base line biodiversity survey of plants and animals including birds, herpeto fauna etc. which will be useful in rehabilitation of the area.
10. There should be no movement of transport vehicles during night within forested/corridor/ESZ areas of TATR.
11. WCL should have appropriate waste disposal mechanism for the mining site so that no waste is disposed in the forested or any natural area.
12. As a part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), WCL should attempt to strengthen Tiger Conservation Foundation of TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve.
13. CWLW, Maharashtra should have appropriate mechanism in place for compliance of the conditions laid by this Authority during various phases of project implementation.

72.4.10 Proposal for use of 467.45 ha of non-forestland from TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve in compt.No.C-26, C-27 & C-33A falling in village Hirapur, Govindpur and Pimparwadi in Pandharkawda division of Yavatamal Circle in favour of RCCPL Private Ltd.

FP/MH/MIN/4954/2020

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 467.45 ha of non-forestland from TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve in compt.No.C-26, C-27 & C-33A falling in village Hirapur, Govindpur and Pimparwadi in Pandharkawda division of Yavatamal Circle in favour of RCCPL Private Ltd.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

DGF&SS observed that the State Government has recommended the proposal for use of 467.45 ha. wherein the project proponent will not carry out any work in 54 ha of land.

Decision Taken: After discussion the standing committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. The proposal is for use of 467.45 ha. The project proponent will not carry out any work in 54 ha of land.

2. The project proponent will submit an undertaking to implement all the mitigation measures suggested by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun as well as to carry out all the activities proposed in the 'Strategic plan for conservation of this corridor and nearby tiger area' prepared by the Project proponent and also by PCCF (WL) if any in future as per requirements.

72.4.11 Proposal for use of 83.841 ha (revised 71.72 ha) of forest land from corridor connecting Navegaon-Nagzira-Tadoba-Andhari-Tiger Reserve for construction of New Broad Gauge Railway Line

between Wadsa-Gadchiroli Maharashtra.
FP/MH/RAIL/26520/2017

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 83.841 ha (revised 71.72 ha) of forest land from corridor connecting Navegaon-Nagzira-Tadoba-Andhari-Tiger Reserve for construction of New Broad Gauge Railway Line between Wadsa-Gadchiroli Maharashtra.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, State Board for Wild Life and State Government.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the standing committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. The proposed alignment of broad gauge railway line between Wadsa to Gadchiroli passes through forest land in 2 patches which falls in Kanha-Navegaon-Nagzira- Tadoba-Andhari-Indravati Tiger Reserve Tiger Corridor. Mitigation measures for this project are prepared by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
2. Proposed mitigation measures consists of modification of structures planned on railway line by Indian Railway and few new structures. In patch-I, 14 mitigation structures consisting of 3 major bridges, 1 underpass and 10 minor structures ranging between 20-100 m in width and 4-6 m in height are proposed. In patch - II, 25 mitigation structures are proposed which includes 1 overpass, 1 culvert & 23 major/minor structures ranging between 20-100 m in width & 2-5.5 m in height. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun also proposed to elevate formation level of the railway line by a minimum one meter so as to increase the height of proposed mitigation measures. The project agency should implement all the above mitigation measures that are proposed by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
3. 2% amount of project cost falling in Tiger Corridor of Kanha-Navegaon -Tadoba -Indravati Tiger Reserve shall be deposited by user agency for wildlife conservation and management activities in the State of Maharashtra with Tiger Conservation Foundation of Tadoba - Andhari Tiger Reserve.
4. A committee comprising of the members from NTCA and WII had made a site appraisal for the project and submitted a report with proposed mitigation plan in November 2019. Proposed mitigation measures consists of modification of structures planned on railway line by Indian Railway and few new structures. In patch-I, 14 mitigation structures consisting of 3 major bridges, 1 underpass and 10 minor structures ranging between 20-100 m in width and 4-6 m in height are proposed. In patch - II, 25 mitigation structures are proposed which includes 1 overpass, 1 culvert and 23 major/minor structures ranging between 20-100 m in width and 2-5.5 m in

height. WII also proposed to elevate formation level of the railway line by a minimum one meter so as to increase the height of proposed mitigation measures for better openness ratio. The mitigation plan submitted by WII has been appraised and found to be comprehensive and suitable for substantially mitigating the ecological impacts of the project.

5. Considering this and larger socio-economic benefits associated with the project, the proposal for construction of new broad gauge track is recommended for approval under Section 38 O(1)(g) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 subject to the complete implementation of the mitigation plan suggested by WII in the letter and spirit.

72.4.12 Proposal for use of 34.1914 ha of forest land from corridor connecting Navegaon-Nagzira-Tadoba and Kanha Tiger Reserve for construction of 3rd railway line from DarekasaSalekasa Station in Gondia district (Rajnandgaon-Kalumna 3rd line project), Maharashtra.

FP/MH/RAIL/45255/2020

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 34.1914 ha of forest land from corridor connecting Navegaon-Nagzira-Tadoba and Kanha Tiger Reserve for construction of 3rd railway line from DarekasaSalekasa Station in Gondia district (Rajnandgaon-Kalumna 3rd line project), Maharashtra.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, State Board for Wild Life and State Government.

Decision Taken: After discussion the standing committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following condition:

1. Mitigation Plan for this project is prepared by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. Mitigation measures proposed in plan includes modification of structures on existing railway line and also structures planned on new railway line by Railway and this includes 3 composite girders, 1 overpass and 11 box culverts. Fencing along the railway tract is also proposed in corridor area. The project agency should implement all the mitigation measures that are proposed by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and also implement the Wildlife Management plan that will be prepared by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for this area.
2. 2% amount of project cost falling in Tiger Corridor of Navegaon - Nagzira Tiger Reserve, and Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve shall be deposited by project agency for wildlife conservation and management activities in the State with the Field Director of Naveogaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve.
3. At the request of SECR, WII has prepared a technical document titled 'Mitigation measures for construction of 3rd railway line from Darekasa-Salekasa station in Gondia,

Maharashtra and submitted it in May 2022. Subsequently, a joint inspection was made by a Committee with representatives of WII, SECR and Maharashtra Forest Department in June 2022 which modified some of the recommendations made by WII due to technical limitations. Mitigations suggested consist of construction of overpasses, underpasses, Girder bridges, RCC boxes and PSC slabs and fencing at appropriate sections along all three (old and new) lines.

4. Both the WII report and the Committee report have been examined in details and were found to be comprehensive and reasonably effective in mitigating the ecological impacts of the project.
5. Attempt should be made to keep tree felling minimal within the tiger corridor landscape.
6. Construction work inside the corridor area should be done during daytime and no night camp of labors and User Agency officials should be allowed within corridor area.
7. SECR should ensure that the construction period within tiger corridor area is kept minimal. Pre-fabricated structures should be used to the maximum possible extent to reduce the extent of disturbance in the habitat.
8. No construction material should be procured from forest. Construction debris should be disposed outside the forest area taking adequate care for air/dust pollution.
9. Caution signboards (fluorescent/radium) about animal crossing as per the advice of the Forest Department should be provided by SECR at appropriate places along the railway tracks.
10. Railway authorities should utilize latest technological tools for deployment of early warning system for train drivers about wildlife movement to prevent wildlife from getting hit by trains.
11. The railway authorities shall ensure prohibition of throwing catering / food material on to the tracks while trains move through forest/corridor areas. Appropriate sensitization must be given both to passengers and catering staff. A team needs to be engaged by Railways for disposing of the food waste and other garbage from all three tracks on daily basis which otherwise might attract animals to approach the tracks.

72.4.13

Proposal for use of 0.9286 ha of forest land from Melghat Tiger Reserve (buffer Zone of Melghat Tiger Reserve which is also final ESZ area) for construction of Rope Suspension Bridge (Skywalk) connecting Hurricane Point and Goreghat Point at Chikhaldara Hill Station, District Amravati, Maharashtra.

FP/MH/Others/35309/2018

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 0.9286 ha of forest land from Melghat Tiger Reserve (buffer Zone of Melghat Tiger Reserve which is also final ESZ area) for construction of Rope Suspension Bridge (Skywalk) connecting Hurricane Point

and Goreghat Point at Chikhaldara Hill Station, District Amravati, and Maharashtra.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, State Board for Wild Life and State Government.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. No plastic/other disposable items to be allowed on the skywalk. Strictly no littering in the area around.
 2. Suitable measures to be adopted by the user agency to prevent monkeys from climbing the bridge to reduce man-animal conflict as much possible.
 3. User agency shall deposit 2 % of amount of the project falling in buffer and Eco-Sensitive Zone of Melghat Tiger Reserve with Melghat Tiger Conservation foundation for wildlife management and conservation activities in the State.
 4. 1.Littering with plastic wastes/non-disposable materials should be prohibited on the skywalk and its adjoining areas. The area should be maintained as a 'no plastic' zone.
 5. Since the valleys underneath the proposed bridge has presence of tigers, tourism activity in between sunset and sunrise on the skywalk should preferably be restricted. Lights on the skywalk and adjacent areas should be dimmed at night.
 6. Tourism Department, Government of Maharashtra should ensure that no tourist trespasses in the forest underneath the skywalk.
- 4.The Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra, should have appropriate mechanism in place for compliance of the conditions mentioned in this OM.

72.4.14 **Proposal for use of 4.239 ha land from National Chambal Ghariyal Sanctuary for construction of Kaliteer Lift Scheme to provide drinking water to 483 villages of 4 tehsils of Dholpur District, (Basedi, Sarmathura, Badi and Saipau), Dholpur Town, Rajasthan. FP/RJ/WATER/150690/2021**

The Standing Committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 4.239 ha land from National Chambal Ghariyal Sanctuary for construction of Kaliteer Lift Scheme to provide drinking water to 483 villages of 4 tehsils of Dholpur District, (Basedi, Sarmathura, Badi and Saipau), Dholpur Town, Rajasthan.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, State Board for Wild Life and State Government.

The Standing Committee was informed that a committee was constituted by the Ministry in accordance with the decision taken in the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life held on 13.10.2022 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble

MEFCC to prescribe the minimum flow in the Chambal river that should be maintained for the conservation of Dolphins and associated species in the river Chambal. The committee held its 1st meeting on 1st December, 2022 under the Chairmanship of Addl. Director General of Forests (Wildlife). The Committee decided that WII in coordination with CWC conduct a comprehensive study based on the flow rate and water level in the Chambal River. An interim report will be submitted by WII in May 2023 for consideration of SCNBWL.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal till an interim report is submitted by WII.

- 72.4.15. Proposal for use of 7.8813 ha of forest land from Eturunagaram Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of BT road from Chinnaboinapally to Kondai road via ShapallyDodla and Malyal from Km 0/0 to 16/0 of Tadvai, dodla Ext and Shapally Ext II RFS in WLM Eturunagaram Forest division of Mulugu district, Telangana.
FP/TG/ROAD/57142/2020
- 72.4.16. Proposal for use of 0.2115 ha of forest land from Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary for conversion of existing electrical line by using ABC lines in Chinthavari Habitation, Laxmidevipally Habitation, BhadradiKothagudem District, Telangana.
FP/TG/TRANS/6376/2022
- 72.4.17. Proposal for use of 0.5921 ha of forest land from Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary for conversion of existing electrical line by using ABC cable at Siddaram ST Habitation Tekulapallymandal of Kothagudem District, Telangana.
FP/TG/TRANS/6379/2022
- 72.4.18. Proposal for use of 0.6759 ha of forest land from Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary for conversion of existing electrical lines using by ABC cable at Singaram and Kothasingaram to ST Habitation, Telangana.
FP/TG/TRANS/6383/2022
- 72.4.19. Proposal for use of 0.4898 ha of forest land from Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary for conversion of existing electrical line by using ABC lines for Thipagutta Habitation, BhadradiKothagudem District, Telangana.
FP/TG/TRANS/6612/2022
- 72.4.20. Proposal for use of 1.4043 ha of forest land from Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary for conversion of existing electrical line by using ABC cable and extension of 3 phase power supply to Venkatapuram ST Habitation in Allampally Mandal of BhadradiKothgudem District Telangana.
FP/TG/TRANS/155864/2022
- 72.4.21. Proposal for use of 5.1285 ha of forest land from Kawal Tiger Reserve (2.3485 ha in Khanapur division and 2.78 ha in Utnoor FDPT Division) for improvement of the existing road and widening of road from R&B road to Allampally of Kadam Mandal in Nirmal and Adilabad district, Telangana.
FP/TG/ROAD/142208/2021

72.4.22 Proposal for use of 3.412 ha of forest land (1.819 ha area falling in core area of Kawal Tiger Reserve and 1.593 ha area falling in buffer area of Kawal Tiger Reserve) for construction of BT road from Govena to Jambuldhara from Km 0/0 to 9/400 via Sidamguda, Nagaguda and Maraguda villages of Lingapur Mandal, Tiryani and Kawal RFs of Asifabad Forest Division of KB Asifabad district, Telangana.

FP/TG/ROAD/119263/2021

72.4.23 Proposal for use of 3.4692 ha of forest land from Kawal Tiger Reserve, Tiger corridor and ESZ for laying of OFC for execution of T-Fiber Project in Asifabad division of KomarambheemAsifabad District in favour of Telangana Fiber Grid Corporation Limited.

FP/TG/OFC/145010/2021

72.4.24 Proposal for use of 5.6901 ha of forest land in corridor area linking Kawal Tiger Reserve and Tadoba Andheri Tiger Reserve for erection of 33 KV interlinking transmission line at Sulugupally village in Bejjur Mandal of KumarambheemAsifabad district, Telangana.

FP/TG/TRANS/146646/2021

72.4.25 Proposal for use of 1.8584 ha of forest land from tiger corridor landscape in between Kawal, Tadoba and Indravati for laying of OFC along the road within the existing RoW for execution of T-Fiber Project in Kagaznagar division of KomarambheemAsifabad District in favour of Telangana Fiber Grid Corporation Limited.

FP/TG/OFC/145452/2021

72.4.26 Proposal for construction of four lane access controlled New Greenfield Highway from Mancherla Warangal section of NH-163G under Nagpur-Vijaywada Corridor in the state of Telangana under Inter corridor route of BharatmalaPariyojana.

FP/TG/ROAD/6336/2022

Dr. H.S Singh observed that the violations of FC Act, 1980 and Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 had been committed by the user agencies who had submitted these proposals. He suggested that a holistic view be taken by the Committee with regard to these proposals.

Dr.Sukumar observed that the violations indicate that the linear infrastructures proposed may not have incorporated proper mitigation measures thus posing greater risk for wildlife.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee recommended that all proposals relating to the Telangana may be discussed in a meeting with the Telangana Chief Secretary and officials of the State Forest Department. The District Magistrate and Divisional Forest Officer of the area during the period when the violations were committed should also be present in the meeting.

72.4.27 Proposal for use of 0.312 ha (Noganur RF 0.042 ha and Panai RF 0.270 ha) of forest land from Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along road side from Anchetty to Denkanikottai for a distance of 10.4 Kms in Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu

FP/TN/Others/30208/2017

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 0.312 ha (Noganur RF 0.042 ha and Panai RF 0.270 ha) of forest land from Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along road side from Anchetty to Denkanikottai for a distance of 10.4 Kms in Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, State Board for Wild Life and State Government.

Decision Taken:

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

1. The project proponent shall obtain all other statutory clearance, impact mitigation and wildlife conservation plan of Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary, Google map with GPS coordinates along with Land use pattern map.
2. All the material required for the work should be prepared outside the sanctuary.
3. No fire places will be created inside the sanctuary.
4. The work in the Sanctuary will be allowed only in the day time from 9 AM to 5 PM.
5. No night camping by labour/survey personnel will be allowed inside the sanctuary area.
6. Project personnel engaged in the project work shall observe the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and rules made there under.
7. The legal status of the land remain unchanged.
8. While undertaking the periodical maintenance works if any by the project proponent shall obtain prior approval of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden well in advance.
9. The project proponent shall submit an undertaking stating that no disturbance will be caused to the wildlife during project implementation.
10. The project proponent (Reliance JioInfocomm) also should offer facility of free data connection (unlimited 4G and upgraded version then there) to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden office/Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri and Wildlife Warden, Hosur office for facilitating the cause of conservation protection.
11. Any other condition stipulated by the Conservator of Forests / Wildlife Warden shall be followed.
12. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State

Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to the Government of India.

- 72.4.28 Proposal for use of 0.258 ha of forest land from Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along road side from Dharmapuri-Anchetty State Highway for a distance of 8.6 Kms in Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu.

FP/TN/Others/30207/2017

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 0.258 ha of forest land from Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary for laying of underground Optical Fibre Cable along road side from Dharmapuri-Anchetty State Highway for a distance of 8.6 Kms in Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, State Board for Wild Life and State Government.

Decision Taken:

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

1. The project proponent shall obtain all other statutory clearance, impact mitigation and wildlife conservation plan of Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary, Google map with GPS coordinates along with Land use pattern map.
2. All the material required for the work should be prepared outside the sanctuary.
3. No fire places will be created inside the sanctuary.
4. The work in the Sanctuary will be allowed only in the day time from 9 AM to 5 PM.
5. No night camping by labour/survey personnel will be allowed inside the sanctuary area.
6. Project personnel engaged in the project work shall observe the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and rules made there under.
7. The legal status of the land remain unchanged.
8. While undertaking the periodical maintenance works if any by the project proponent shall obtain prior approval of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden well in advance.
9. The project proponent shall submit an undertaking stating that no disturbance will be caused to the wildlife during project implementation.
10. The project proponent (Reliance JioInfocomm) also should offer facility of free data connection (unlimited 4G and upgraded version then there) to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden

office/Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri and Wildlife Warden, Hosur office for facilitating the cause of conservation protection.

11. Any other condition stipulated by the Conservator of Forests / Wildlife Warden shall be followed.
12. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to Gol.

72.4.29 Proposal for use of 15.1577 ha (9.4722 ha forest land + 5.6855 ha of non-forest land) from Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary for widening & strengthening of Patwadh to Basuhari road from km. No. 0.000 to 61.500 under road connectivity project on left wing extremism area (RCPLWEA) in Tehsil:- Robertsganj, district, Sonbhadra under PMGSY, Uttar Pradesh.
FP/UP/ROAD/59458/2020.

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 15.1577 ha (9.4722 ha forest land + 5.6855 ha of non-forest land) from Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary for widening & strengthening of Patwadh to Basuhari road from km. No. 0.000 to 61.500 under road connectivity project on left wing extremism area (RCPLWEA) in Tehsil: - Robertsganj, district, Sonbhadra under PMGSY, Uttar Pradesh.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, State Board for Wild Life and State Government.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. The animal passage plan will be prepared by WII.
2. The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged. The user agency will have right only for construction, maintenance and use of the road and the land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
3. As forest land and trees standing over it are also involved in the project, Forest Clearance as per provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 will also be required and user agency will be required to comply all conditions stipulated in forest clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
4. Amount of Net Present Value (N.P.V.) shall be paid by the User Agency as per directions issued by Ministry of Environment of Forest (FC Division), New Delhi vide letter No.F.No.5-3/2007-FC dated 05.02.2009 for proposed forest land 18.00 ha land within Kaimur WLS and its ESZ.
5. The user agency shall provide 2% of the proportionate cost of the project falling inside protected area and eco-sensitive zone for mitigation of negative impact and ecological development of wildlife habitat area as per guidelines of Government of India.

This amount will be spent on the mitigation measures within the same protected area.

6. The personnel of user agency working on the site should be well aware and shall be bound to follow the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
7. The user agency will ensure that no labour camp shall be established inside the sanctuary or any other sensitive area in its eco-sensitive zone. Neither firewood nor any other forest produce from the forest will be used.
8. The user agency will keep firefighting equipment's as well as equipment for minimizing air and noise pollution at the site.
9. During the construction period, the user agency will establish one temporary forest check post along with the required manpower at its own cost.
10. User agency will fix sign board at appropriate point of the project.
11. Construction waste materials shall not be thrown inside the protected forest area or eco-sensitive zone area or on the movement corridor of Wildlife.
12. No work shall be allowed from sunset to sunrise.
13. User agency will take all precautions including technical measures to contain the noise and air pollution, protection from fire due to during construction activities and shall also obtain consent to operate the project work from U.P. Pollution Control Board and effectively implement all the conditions stipulated therein.
14. The project proponent shall undertake plantation/afforestation work by planting the 378 plants of native species in the buffer area of the sanctuary to compensate the felling of 194 trees during the construction of proposed road, for which necessary finance will be provided by the user agency as per the proposal put up by Divisional Forest Officer, Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, Mirzapur after approval of Chief Wild Life Warden.
15. User agency shall prepare and submit the Animal Passage Plan.
16. Blasted ammunition materials shall not be carried by user agency in wildlife area.
17. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to Gol

72.4.30

Proposal for use of 0.089 ha of forest land from Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of ChintanSthal in Bhimbali and ChotiLincholi, Uttarakhand.

WL/UK/Others/416953/2023

The Standing Committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 0.089 ha of forest land from Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of ChintanSthal in Bhimbali and ChotiLincholi, Uttarakhand

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, State Board for Wild Life and State Government.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal till the next meeting.

72.4.31

Proposal for collection/extraction of minor minerals (RBM) i.e. sand, bajri, boulders from a part of Mandakini river bed, area-6.00 ha in favour of Sh. Khusal Singh S/o Sh. Chandra Singh Negi. The proposed site is 7.4 km away from Kedarnath Musk Deer Sanctuary-reg.

FP/UK/MIN/5321/2020.

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for collection/extraction of minor minerals (RBM) i.e. sand, bajri, boulders from a part of Mandakini river bed, area-6.00 ha in favour of Sh.Khusal Singh S/o Sh. Chandra Singh Negi. The proposed site is 7.4 km away from Kedarnath Musk Deer Sanctuary-reg.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, State Board for Wild Life and State Government.

Decision Taken:After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. No mining shall be allowed in the area by Khusal Singh which has not been identified in the comprehensive mining plan of the district.
2. Replenishment study should be conducted on regular basis by Khusal Singh.
3. Mining area shall be identified and put for auction with proper geo-tagged details by Khusal Singh.
4. The latitude and longitude of each mining area shall be clearly mentioned in letter of intent issued to Khusal Singh. Such information shall be provided on the website of the district administration.
5. There shall be no river bed mining operation allowed in monsoon period Khusal Singh. The period as defined by IMD Nagpur for each state shall be adhered with.
6. The monitoring infrastructures including weighbridge and adequate fencing of lease area, CCTV, Transport permits etc, shall be ensured by Khusal Singh in order to reduce recorded dispatch.
7. Regular monitoring of mined minerals and its transportation and storage shall be ensured by Khusal Singh and all information shall be captured at centralized database so that easy tracking of illegal material can be done.
8. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate

shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to Gol.

72.4.32 Bangalore-Chennai Expressway Phase-II-Wildlife Proposal for Non-Forest stretch falling within ESZ of Kaundinya Wildlife Sanctuary in Chittoor District in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

WL/AP/ROAD/418292/2023

The Standing Committee was informed that the proposal is for Bangalore-Chennai Expressway Phase-II-Wildlife for Non-Forest stretch falling within ESZ of Kaundinya Wildlife Sanctuary in Chittoor District in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, State Board for Wild Life and State Government.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. The proposed area will be utilized only for the purpose for which the user agency has sought, but not for any other commercial purpose.
2. The User Agency should inform the commencement of the work to the Concerned DFO. The diversion work will be executed under the supervision of the Forest Department
3. The User Agency should invariably demarcate the proposed land for diversion with any suitable permanent stones/pillars. After demarcation only the works should be commenced.
4. The User Agency should not resort to the excavation of the surrounding forest land for collection of the earth to be used. If such excavation is found during the work period or later, the User Agency will be charged with suitable provisions of relevant acts.
5. The User Agency shall obey any other conditions stipulated by the Forest Department as per Acts and Rules.
6. The User Agency will be solely responsible for every violation which attracts the provisions of A.P Forest Act and Forest Conservation Act, 1980.
7. Wildlife Conservation plan for Rs.1698.00 lakhs to be deposited by the User Agency in Wildlife Conservation Projects & CSP (WLC & CSR)
8. The User Agency shall deposit 2% of project cost in BIOSAT account for conservation of the elephant habitat to tackle the Human and Elephant conflicts and Mitigation other ameliorative measures.
9. Wildlife signage boards to be erected in and around the entire project.
10. Work shall be carried out only from dawn to dusk.
11. No labour camps to be established in the protected area.

72.4.33

Proposal for use of 198.3084 of forest land from Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve for development of Economic Corridors, Inter-corridors, feeder routes and Coastal Road to improve the efficiency of freight movement in India (Lot-3/Odisha & Jharkhand/Package-2) Raipur-Vishakhapatnam (Ch.0.000-Ch.124.661) in the State of Chhattisgarh under BharatmalaPariyojana.

FP/CG/ROAD/119866/2021

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 198.3084 of forest land from Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve for development of Economic Corridors, Inter-corridors, feeder routes and Coastal Road to improve the efficiency of freight movement in India (Lot-3/Odisha & Jharkhand/Package-2) Raipur-Vishakhapatnam (Ch.0.000-Ch.124.661) in the State of Chhattisgarh under BharatmalaPariyojana.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, State Board for Wild Life and State Government.

Dr Sukumar said that the area has wild buffaloes and the user agency must take all necessary steps to provide safe passage for wild animals.

Dr. H. S Singh said that since these highways are meant for movement of high speed vehicles, the animal passage plan should to re-examined.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the standing committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. The animal passage plan needs to be examined by the WIL.
2. The Construction work shall be allowed from dawn to dusk only.
3. Any other condition imposed from time to time by forest department.
4. There shall be caution sign boards at every 500 meters about animal passing, restriction on feeding animals, garbage dumping, no stopping/honking and hunting etc. as per the advice of forest department.
5. All forest patches within ESZ and wildlife corridor not covered under clear opening of mitigation structures shall be provided with a small pipe/cc culvert at every 100 meters (where there are no existing/proposed cross drainage structures) for the movement of reptiles, amphibians and small animals.
6. Underpasses will also have integrated options of light and sound barriers, camouflaging, and landscaping including restoration of habitat beneath underpasses after construction for the forest patch through which corridor is passing.

7. There will not be a right of passage to the public via the underpass.
8. The CWLW should have an adequate monitoring mechanism in place.

72.4.34 Proposal for use of 1.3105 ha of forest land from Amrabad Tiger Reserve for laying of OFC along the road within the existing RoW for execution of T-Fiber Project in Nagarjunasagar division of Nalgonda District in favour of Telangana Fiber Grid Corporation Limited.
FP/TG/OFC/142849/2021.

Dr. H.S Singh said that the violations of FC Act, 1980 and Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 had been committed by the user agencies who had submitted these proposals. He suggested that a holistic view be taken by the Committee with regard to these proposals.

Prof.Sukumar noted that the violations indicate that the linear infrastructures proposed may not have incorporated proper mitigative measures thus posing greater risk for wildlife.

Decision Taken: After discussions the Standing Committee recommended that all proposals relating to the Telangana may be discussed in a meeting with the Telangana Chief Secretary and officials of the State Forest Department. The District Magistrate and Divisional Forest Officer of the area during the period when the violations were committed should also be present in the meeting.

72.4.35 Proposal for use of 21.29924 ha from Sultanpur Wildlife Sanctuary for SGT University" (Medical College cum Hospital and Research Institute) at Village-Budhera Dist.-Gurugram, Haryana.

The proposal was considered by the SCNBWL in its 67th and 68th meetings. In the 68th meeting held on 30th May, 2022, the Standing Committee decided that the State Government officials shall provide all the details regarding the project proposal to the DGF&SS in person and therefore decided to defer the proposal for the next meeting.

2.The Chief Wild Life Warden, Haryana informed that he had met DGF & SS in person on 29.07.2022 and based on his directions sought certain details from the Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board as follows:

- a. The Status of compliance of measures for disposal of solid waste generated by the project in terms of the provision for Bio Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- b. The compliance of ToR contained in the MoU signed between the agency authorized by the State Pollution Control Board and the Project Proponent.
- c. As whether the measures suggested in the above MoU are

sufficient enough to manage the Bio Medical waste.

3. HSPCB has provided the replies vide letter dated 28.07.2022. HSPCB informed that the unit has signed an agreement with the M/s Biotic Waste Limited for disposal of Bio- Medical Waste which is valid up to 31.03.2023. Accordingly, EDS has been raised to provide the latest status of the agreement. The information from State Government was received on 20.04.2022.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee deferred the proposal till examination of the information received from State Government.

AGENDA 5

ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

- 72.5.1** Proposal for use of 1.86 ha of forest land from Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary for construction of 400 kV Vikhroli receiving station and associated incoming transmission lines for strengthening of Mumbai transmission system, Maharashtra.
FP/MH/TRANS/119929/2021

The Standing committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 1.86 ha of forest land from Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary for construction of 400 kV Vikhroli receiving station and associated incoming transmission lines for strengthening of Mumbai transmission system, Maharashtra.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, State Board for Wild Life and State Government.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. The project proponent shall bear the cost of mitigation measure suggested by the experts and shall contribute to restoration including :
 - a.
 - a. Minimum ground clearance of more than 9 m for safe passage of avifauna.
 - b. Vertical distance of more than 8 m. between 2 conductors to avoid electrocution of large birds like Greater Flamingo.
 - c. Installation of bird deflectors.
2. The project personnel engaged in the project work shall comply with

the provisions of all the existing legal provisions, especially the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rules made there under & also take all precautionary measures for conservation & protection of flora, fauna in the vicinity of the project.

3. The proposal involves felling of 1854 trees (1732 Mangrove +122 Non Mangroves). The project proponent shall bear cost of afforestation of mangroves and also defray the cost of planting mangrove trees.

4. As the project is required to cut mangroves tree, the user agency shall obtain permission from Hon'ble High Court, Bombay before the commencement of work.

5. The project will be constructed in vicinity of areas classified as CRZ-I having wide variety of avifauna diversity, therefore adoption of measures for conservation of habitat of the avifauna found in the region will be desirable.

6. Project proponent will make provision for barricading the work site to avoid any human or wildlife mishaps.

7. The normal flow of traffic should not be affected.

8. Norms of Noise, Air & Water pollution to be strictly followed. User agency should adopt measures for reducing noise, dust & air pollution.

9. No dumping of debris on wet lands and forest area will be done by project proponent. Any violation will be dealt in strictly.

10. The laying of transmission line and its ancillary works should be carried out with utmost care so as to cause least impact on the wildlife in the notified protected area, & final ESZ.

11. All the other mandatory permissions from different statutory authorities should be obtained prior to commencement of work.

12. It shall be ensured that no damage or disturbance is caused to the wildlife and its habitat.

13. A total of 2% of the project cost for works within Thane Creek Flamingo sanctuary and within its ESZ should be deposited by the project agency with Mangrove and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation of Maharashtra for improvement of wildlife and its habitat in Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks in Maharashtra.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

ANNEXURE-I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for EF&CC	Chairman
2.	Shri Ashwin Kumar Chowbey, Hon'ble Minister of State	Special Invitee
3.	Ms. LeenaNandan, Secretary, MoEF&CC	Member
4.	Shri Chandra Prakash Goyal, DGF&SS, MoEF&CC	Member
5.	Shri BivashRanjan, ADGF(WL), MoEF&CC	Member Secretary
6.	Prof. R. Sukumar, Member, NBWL	Member
7.	Dr. H. S. Singh, Member, NBWL	Member
8.	Director, GEER Foundation - Member, NBWL	Member
9.	Special Secretary. Environment. Forest, Science and Technology Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh.	Member
10.	Shri S.P. Yadav, ADGF (PT) and M.S. NTCA	Invitee
11.	Shri Rohit Tiwari, IGF(WL), MoEF&CC	Invitee
12.	Shri Virender Tiwari, Director (WII), Dehradun.	Invitee
13.	Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey, IG(PE), MoEF&CC	Invitee
14.	Shri SubhranjanSen, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madhya Pradesh	Invitee
15.	Shri ArindamTomar, Chief Wild Life Warden, Rajasthan	Invitee
16.	Shri Mahip Gupta ,Chief Wild Life Warden, Maharashtra	Invitee
17.	Sh. Srinivas Reddy, Chief Wild Life Warden, Tamil Nadu	Invitee
18.	Shri R.M.Dobriyal, Chief Wild Life Warden, Telangana	Invitee
19.	Ms. Shanti Priya Pandey, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh	Invitee
20.	Shri Pankaj Goel, Chief Wild Life Warden, Haryana	Invitee
21.	Shri N.TamPCCF &Chief Wild Life Warden, Arunachal Pradesh	Invitee
22.	Shri Jitendra Kumar PCCF, Arunachal Pradesh	Invitee
23.	Shri JigmentTakpa Principal Chief Conservator of forest, Union Territory of Ladakh.	Invitee
24.	Shri Prabhat Kumar Gupta, Chief Wild Life Warden, Bihar	Invitee
25.	Shri K,P Dubey, Chief Wild Life Warden,Uttar Pradesh	Invitee
26.	Dr. Samir Sinha,PCCF &Chief Wild Life Warden, Uttarakhand	Invitee
27.	Dr. Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, Joint Secretary (Wetland)	Invitee
28.	Shri A K Samaiyar Executive Director and Head of Project, FG Unchahar Thermal Power Project	Invitee
29.	Dr. Vijay Prakash, Chief General Manager, NTPC Engg. Office Complex, Noida	Invitee
30.	Dr. Gopi, Scientist F, WII, Dehradun	Invitee
31.	Dr. Sudheer Chintalapati, Scientist E, MoEF&CC	Invitee
32.	Dr. PreetiTripathi, Scientist C, MoEF&CC, Lucknow.	Invitee