

Minutes of Agenda (Part) of the 57th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life Deliberated by Circulation

The following Agenda Items along with the fact sheets after consent from the competent authority were circulated amongst the Members of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life. List to whom Agenda circulated is in Annexure I. The matter was also considered by the DGF&SS, Secretary and the Chairman of the Standing Committee.

✓ 54.4.21 Proposal for use of 11.115 ha of land (forestland: 2.565 ha + civil soyam land: 8.190 ha) construction of Kotgaon (Naitwar) to Kalap Motor road, Uttarakhand State

The proposal is for use of 11.115 ha of land (8.190 ha of civil soyam land + 2.565 ha forestland) for construction of new road from Kotgaon to Kalap Motor road passing through Govind Pashu Vihar National Park. The State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the project without imposing conditions. The State Board for Wild Life has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15/06/2018. The proposal was considered in the 54th meeting held on 18th July 2019 wherein it was decided to deliberate discussions in the forthcoming meeting in the light of the guidelines for roads in protected areas issued by the Ministry. In the 54th meeting Dr H S Singh, Member stated that as per the recommendations of *"the Sub-Committee on Guidelines for Roads in Protected Areas"* new roads shall not be constructed inside the National Parks and Sanctuaries. The Standing Committee in its 54th meeting noticed that the Chief Wildlife Warden / or representative from the State Forest Department was not available to comment on the proposed road.

The Standing Committee in its 56th meeting held on 17th December 2019 decided that a committee comprising of two officials from the Wildlife Division of the Ministry and two officials from the State Forest Department would visit the project site and submit report to this Ministry within one month. Accordingly the Site Inspection Committee visited the project site on 18 - 20th March, 2020 and submitted report on 31st March, 2020. The Site Inspection Committee recommended the project with strict adherence to the following mitigation measures and conditions:

- [1] Among the three alignments explored for the construction of road, the committee is convinced that the Alignment-1 requiring 2.565 ha of sanctuary land is the most practical with least conversation impact and geotechnical / geological, economic and social viability. The user agency shall not use the area for the proposed road work other than the area permitted.
- [2] The project authority should not violate any regulatory provisions under Section-9, 17, 27, 29, 30, 31 and 32 of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The project proponent shall fell barest minimum number of trees without any disturbance or harm or destroy wildlife.
- [3] The user agency shall not establish any temporary or permanent labour camp in Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Sanctuary. Also the project proponent or his

contractor shall not create any fire places inside the Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Sanctuary.

- [4] Blasting using explosives is not permitted and excavated material should not be piled up to be an obstruction for the normal flow of Supin / Rupin / or Tone Rivers. Adequate drainage arrangements i.e., wide hillside lined drain with proper cross drainage arrangements should be constructed in the entire stretch of 15 KM road. Arrangement for the normal flow of water on the downhill slope should be made. All the material required for the work shall be prepared outside the protected area. The work in the protected area is allowed only in the daytime from 8.00 A.M to 5.00 P.M.
- [5] Underpasses and overpasses (including herp-fences) at strategic locations for passage of wildlife, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians should be constructed while constructing the road. Design of these underpasses / overpasses provided in *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife* compiled by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, should be considered. The precise locations of these passages can be decided by the project authority in consultation with the State Chief Wildlife Warden. Also the speed breakers at a distance of every 500 m should be created in the entire stretch of 15 KM road. Retaining wall / or breast wall having a seismic design along the road should be constructed. Any steep embankment on either side of the proposed road needs to be made more gentle or flattened as these often trap wildlife on the road causing mortality.
- [6] The project authority should obtain Forest Clearance separately for use of forestland as per the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

Prof. R Sukumar, Member stated that the Site Inspection Committee has recommended for the construction of a motorable road along the existing bridle path passing through the Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and wildlife sanctuary involving the use of 2.565 hectares of PA land in order to provide connectivity to the 500+ residents of Kalap village. From among three possible alignments considered, they have selected a particular alignment which involves the least loss of forest land from the PA and also uses an existing path. After considerable thought to the proposal, he inclined to accept the recommendations of the Site Inspection Committee. He stated that the use of the road should be strictly regulated by the State Forest Department and kept largely for the use of the residents of Kalap.

Dr H S Singh and the Spl. Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, Members agreed to recommend the project with the conditions and mitigation measures of the Site Inspection Committee.

The Members of the Standing Committee agreed to recommend the proposal subject to the conditions that

- (a) The project proponent will comply with all the conditions imposed by the State Chief Wildlife Warden and the recommendations of the Site Inspection Committee.
- (b) 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 Govt. of India.

54.4.25 Proposal for picking of balu / bajri / boulder mine at village Dhhakrani, ehsil Vikas Nagar, District Dehradun from the private land of 2.5893 ha area located at 2.35 km away from Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve, Uttarakhand State

54.4.26 Proposal for picking of balu / bajri / boulder mine from an area of 3.1250 ha at Village Dhakrani, Tehsil Vikasnagar, District Dehradun, Uttarakhand State

56.3.23 Proposal for picking of Balu / Bajri / boulder mine at village Dhhakrani, Tehsil Vikas Nagar, District Dehradun from the private land of 1.93 ha area located at 4.14 km away from Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve, Uttarakhand State

These three proposals are for the collection of balu, bajri and boulder in the private lands located at 2.35 to 4.14 KM away from the boundary of Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve. These proposals were considered in the 54th meeting held on 18th July 2019 wherein it was decided to deliberate discussions in the forthcoming meeting. The proposals were also considered by the Standing Committee in its 55th and 56th meetings however the Standing Committee decided not to recommend the project till the conditions given below are complied and certified by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

- (a) The project proponent mandatorily comply all the requirements envisaged in the guidelines named *Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016* issued by the Ministry.
- (b) The project proponent will comply with all the conditions imposed by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (c) 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 Govt. of India.
- (d) A committee constituted by the Ministry to provide guidelines on mechanism of extraction of sand / river bed materials.

The Spl. Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, Member stated that the matters pertaining to outside the conservation reserves do not come under the ambit of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life. He stated that this fact may be informed to State Chief Wildlife Warden of Uttarakhand.

Prof R. Sukumar, Member stated that over the years, a large number of such proposals for sand/boulder mining have come from Uttarakhand, with most of them pertaining to rivers/streams close to the Rajaji National Park. Following the release of the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016, the issue of sustainable mining at individual sites may be satisfied provided that these guidelines are strictly followed.