

**Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Wildlife Division)**

**6th Floor, Vayu Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi-110003**


**F.No.6-48/2015 WL (34th Meeting)
Dated: 24th June 2015**

**To
All Members,
Standing Committee of NBWL.**

Sub: Minutes of 34th Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL.

Sir/Madam,

Kindly find enclosed copy of the minutes of the 34th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 2nd June 2015 at 11.00 AM in Teesta & Brahmaputra", 1st Floor, Vayu Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi-110003 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

Yours faithfully,

(Rajasekhar Ratti)
Scientist 'C'/Deputy Director (WL)

Encl: As above

Distribution:

1. Secretary, MoEF & CC
2. Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF & CC.
3. Member Secretary, NTCA, New Delhi.
4. Addl. Director General of Forests (WL), MoEF&CC.
5. Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
6. Director, GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
7. Prof. R.Sukumar, Central for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
8. Dr. H.S. Singh, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat.
9. Pr. Secretary (Forests), Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

Copy to:

1. PPS to Hon'ble MOS (I/C) E&F.
2. PPS to DGF&SS.
3. PPS to Addl.DGF(WL) and Member Secretary, Standing Committee (NBWL).
4. PPS to IGF(WL)/PS to DIG(WL)/PS to JD(WL).

Minutes of the 34th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 2nd June, 2015

The 34th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) was held on 2nd June 2015 in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

Hon'ble Chairman welcomed all participants to the 34th Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL and requested the Member Secretary to initiate the discussions on the agenda items.

The agenda items were then taken up for discussion.

Agenda No. 1:

Confirmation of the minutes of the 33rd Meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 14th March 2015.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the minutes of the 33rd meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL held on 14th March 2015 were circulated to all members of the Standing Committee on 20th February 2015. He added that no comments were received on the minutes. Accordingly, the minutes of 33rd meeting were confirmed.

Agenda No.2: Action Taken Report on the decisions of the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 33rd meeting

31.4.1. Proposal for use of 2.3 ha of Dirok Tea Estate land falling within 10 kms from the boundary of Dehing-Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary for drilling of appraisal well, Assam by M/s Hindustan Oil Corporation Ltd.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee on the proposal. He mentioned that the site visit was conducted by Dr. R. Sukumar along with representative of Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam and the user agency. The site inspection report was circulated to all the members.

Dr. Sukumar recommended the proposal subject to the conditions laid down in the environment clearance as well as those prescribed by the State Board for Wildlife. Further, he added that HOCL also be advised not to go ahead with any construction on the 50 acre parcel of land at Golai pending the final orders of the National Green Tribunal in the PIL on the Golai Elephant Corridor, and decisions to be taken by the state and central government on legal status of Elephant Reserves/ Elephant Corridors.

The chair sought to know if the corridor is being used by the elephants, and suggested that the whole project needs to be seen holistically and wherever already the area of corridor is being used, provision of adequate mitigation measures needs to be taken.

After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal with conditions prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden as below:

- i. Fencing be provided along the boundary of oil and Gas Appraisal Well drilling site in on-shore block AAP-ON-94/1 in Dirak Tea Estate which is outside the Dehing Patkai WLS.*
- ii. All the required assistance shall be provided by the project authorities to the Forest officials in case of any man-animal conflict in and around the project site in future.*
- iii. No drilling activities should be allowed during the night time.*
- iv. Only trained personnel should be allowed inside the block area.*
- v. No underground works of mining/tunnelling should be allowed.*
- vi. Solid waste and liquid effluents should not be allowed to flow outside the project area (1.70 ha) and should be recycled. Appropriate fire extinguisher system should be installed at the project site.*
- vii. If any oil or gas found during drilling appraisal well, a separate permission shall be obtained for extraction of the same.*

4.2 (7).Proposal for diversion of 0.3514 ha of forestland falling in Majathal Wildlife Sanctuary, Himachal Pradesh for drawing water from Pazheena Khad in favour of Executive Engineer, I&PH Division Arki, District Solan.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee on the proposal. He added that the matter was discussed in 32nd meeting in which Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh was requested to conduct a site inspection, provide information on quantum of existing water usage by wildlife and local communities and also provide a workable management plan for the water sources located within the sanctuary.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh informed the Committee that the site inspection was conducted by him and it was found that the water was being used for industrial purposes and the proposed water supply could also be used by workers. This may cause further depletion of water resources in the sanctuary which will have a direct impact on the wildlife. The Chairman suggested catchment area treatment for the watershed, for replenishment of water source by recharge of aquifers, so that availability of water is ensured for wildlife primarily and also for withdrawal for competing users without compromising the needs of wildlife.

After discussions, the committee referred back the proposal to the State for undertaking steps as suggested.