



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

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Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi 110 003

Date: 12 Sept 2017

F.No. 6-175/2107 WL

To
All Members
Standing Committee of NBWL

Sub: Minutes of 45th Meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL- reg.

Sir/Madam,

Kindly find enclosed copy of the Minutes of 45th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 4th September 2017 at 5.00 PM in Teesta Conference Hall, 1 Floor, Vayu Block, Indira Paryavarn Bhavan, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Pasupala Ravi)
Scientist C

E-mail: ddwlnef@gmail.com

Encl: As above

Distribution

- (1) Secretary, MoEF&CC
- (2) DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
- (3) Member Secretary, NTCA
- (4) ADGF(FC), MoEF&CC
- (5) ADGF(WL), MoEF&CC
- (6) Director, WII, Dehradun
- (7) Director, GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- (8) Prof. R. Sukumar, Member, NBWL
- (9) Dr. H.S. Singh, Member, NBWL
- (10) Pr. Secretary (Forests), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

Copy to

- (1) PS to Hon'ble MoEF&CC
- (2) PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
- (3) PPS to Addl.DGF(WL), Member Secretary, NBWL
- (4) PPS to IGF(WL)/PS to DIG(WL)/PS to JD(WL)

Divisional Forest Officer
Wildlife Division
Sarhan, H. P.

**MINUTES OF 45th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL
BOARD FOR WILDLIFE HELD ON 4th SEPTEMBER 2017**

The 45th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife was held on 4th September 2017 in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change. List of participants is at ANNEXURE- I.

Hon'ble Chairman welcomed all the participants to the 45th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife and asked the IGF(WL) to initiate the discussions on the Agenda Items.

AGENDA ITEM No. 1

Confirmation of the minutes of the 44th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 29th July 2017

The IGF(WL) informed the Committee that the minutes of the 44th meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL held on 29th July 2017 were circulated to all members of the Standing Committee on 16th August 2017. No comments/suggestions were received and accordingly the minutes of 44th meeting were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM No. 2

ACTION TAKEN REPORT

- 36.4.2.1 Setting up 5.25 MTPA Development of Floating storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) facilities for import of LNG within the existing deep water port at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. The proposed site is 2.5 km away from the boundary of Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary.**

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee about the proposal and informed that the proposal was discussed during the 40th Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL. He also

mentioned that as the project site was located 2.5 km away from Coringa WLS, Impact Mitigation and Wildlife Conservation Plan were required for consideration. The Impact Mitigation and Wildlife Conservation Plan were received from the project proponent on 4th August 2017. The Plan was shared with the Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh on 8th August 2017 for seeking comments. The comments on the same are awaited from the State Chief Wildlife Warden. Consequently the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal pending receipt of the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh.

- 36.4.2.12. **Construction of Singoli-Bhatwari Hydroelectric Project 99 MW by M/s L&T Uttarakhand Hydropower Limited. The proposed site falls within 10 km from the boundary of Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary**
- 36.4.2.13. **Construction of 171 MW Lata Tapovan Hydropower Project of NTPC Ltd, Uttarakhand**
- 36.4.2.14. **Construction of 520 MW (4 X 130) Tapovan Vishnugad Hydroelectric Project of NTPC Ltd., Uttarakhand. The proposed site falls outside Nanda Devi National Park at a distance of 7.5 km**

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee on the above proposals and mentioned that the proposals were considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 39th meeting held on 23rd August 2016. During the said meeting, it was decided by the Standing Committee to seek comments of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWRD&GR) on the proposed projects.

The IGF(WL) also mentioned that on 23rd September 2016, the matter was taken up with the MoWRD&GR. But, no response was received from them. He also mentioned that in the 42nd meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL, the Chair had suggested the CWLW, Uttarakhand to ask the State Government to take up the matter with the MoWRD&GR. However, no response was received from the State CWLW and MoWRD&GR. He informed that after the 44th Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL, the DIG (WL) had spoken with the Joint Secretary, MoWRD&GR and requested to consider and share their comments on the said

matter:
the proposal.

was still awaited. Consequently the Standing Committee decided to defer

- 34.4.2.11 Proposal of Ms Stone International Pvt. Ltd Chechat for expansion and renewal of Kotah Stone (Building) production in Mining lease no.22/92 situated in village Chechat in Tehsil Ramganj Mandi, District Kota which lies at about 6.4 km aerial distance from the Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary/ Mukundra Hills National Park
- 34.4.2.12 Proposal for renewal of existing lime stone mining lease no.24/87 in village Pipakhedi, Tehsil Ramganj Mandi District Kota near Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan by M/s Zahoor Ahmed, Abdul Majid. The proposed mining lease 8.5 km away from Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary
- 34.4.2.13 Proposal of M/s Associated Stone Industries (Kota) limited for expansion and renewal of Kotah Stone production in mining lease No. 1/89 situated in Tehsil Ramganj mandi, District Kota, Rajasthan

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee on the proposals and mentioned that in the 42nd meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL, the state Chief Wildlife Warden had informed that ESZ proposals of Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary would be finalized and submitted to the Ministry in one month. Revised ESZ proposal of the Mukundra Hills TR was also awaited from the State. Further, in the 43rd meeting of SC-NBWL held on 27th July 2017, the CWLW, Rajasthan sought time of two months to submit the revised ESZ proposals. The period of two months ended on 28th August 2017 but no response was received from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan.

During the 45th meeting of SC-NBWL, the State Chief Wildlife Warden again requested the time period of two months for submission of ESZ. The Chairman stated that since the matter was pending with the Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan for a long period, only one month (up to 30th September 2017) be allowed to the State Chief Wildlife Warden for submission of revised ESZ proposals. The State Chief Wildlife Warden agreed to this. After discussions the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal.

39.4.2.5 Proposal for International Amusement & Infrastructures Ltd for Jaipur Mega Tourism City, a Recreational Project at village Daulatpura Kotra, Tehsil Amer District Jaipur, Rajasthan

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee on the proposal and mentioned that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 39th meeting held on 23rd August 2016. During the meeting, the State Chief Wildlife Warden has mentioned that the Environment Clearance for the project was under consideration of SEIAA, Rajasthan. In the 42nd meeting of SC-NBWL, the State Chief Wildlife Warden had informed that the Environment Clearance (EC) of project shall be submitted in next 2-3 months. Further, in the 43rd meeting of SC-NBWL held on 27th July 2017, the State Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan has sought time of another two months to submit the EC of project. The period of two months ended on 28th August 2017 but no response was received from the State Chief Wildlife Warden. During the 45th meeting of SC-NBWL, the State Chief Wildlife Warden again requested the time period of another two months for submission of EC of the project.

The Chairman stated that since the matter was pending with the Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan for a long period, only one month (up to 30th September 2017) would be allowed to the State Chief Wildlife Warden for submission of EC of the project. The State Chief Wildlife Warden agreed to this. Accordingly the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal.

40.3.2.1 Diversion of 9.94 ha of forestland from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of New Railway Line Broad Gauge (BG) between Agartala to Sabroom, Tripura

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee on the proposal and mentioned that in the 42nd meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL, the DGF&SS had suggested that a Committee comprising of the Chief Wildlife Warden of Tripura, Prof R Sukumar, Member NBWL, one representative of WII and one person from the Wildlife Division would visit the site and submit a report in a fortnight to the Ministry for further consideration. The IGF(WL) further informed that the site inspection has been conducted by the committee headed by Prof R Sukumar and the Site

Inspection Report was received on 23rd August, 2017 which was circulated to members along with the agenda of the 45th meeting. Prof R Sukumar briefly informed that the Committee has recommended the proposal for the diversion of 9.94 ha of forestland from Trishna WLS for the construction of new railway line (BG) from Agartala to Sabroom with strict adherence to the following mitigation measures and conditions:

1. Among the three alignments explored for the construction of railway line between Udaipur and Sabroom, the committee is convinced that Alignment-2 requiring 9.94 ha of sanctuary land is the most practical for the construction of railway line with least conservation impact and technical / economic / social viability.
2. Fencing / funneling in vicinity of underpass on either side of the track passing through the forest should be done at least for 100 m distance. Any steep embankment on either side of the railway line needs to be made more gentle or flattened as these often trap wildlife on the railway track causing mortality by fast moving trains. The speed of the trains plying through the forest patches of the sanctuary need to be regulated to below 45 km per hour.
3. Separate smaller passage ways for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians are required with *herp-fences* all along the railway track when passing the forest corridor patches. Design of these provided in *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife* (2016) compiled by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, shall be considered while according stage approval for this project. Precise locations of these passages can be decided by the Railways in consultation with the Tripura Forest Department.
4. This committee deliberated at length the appropriate management category of the 13 sq.km Bhairavnagar Bison Conservation Area. Based on the field visit to this area, discussions with senior officials including PCCF of Tripura Forest Department, the presence of cultivation and settlement in this relatively-isolated small forest patch and its proximity to the Bangladesh border, the committee recommends that the **Bhairavnagar Bison Conservation Area be managed as a Conservation Reserve under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.** This would be the most appropriate and practical means of ensuring conservation of the forest and the wildlife.

(xvii) The work (canal excavation, eco-crossings construction, spoil bank preparation etc.) within forested areas of the landscape should be completed in the shortest possible span so that the area could be reclaimed soon after. Irrigation department must use pre-fabricated structures (built outside the forest area) for construction of these eco-bridges and assemble them in these areas so that the on-site disturbances could be minimized during the construction phase.

(xviii) The same monitoring committee should oversee the implementation of the project at regular intervals to ensure that the mitigation measures suggested by State CWLW, NTCA and WII are being complied with.

Dr H S Singh, Member NBWL suggested to increase the width of the eco-bridges of Table 1 (Serial No. 5, 13, 14 & 18) from 15 m to 20 m for the large cause of the wildlife.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend proposal along with the conditions and mitigation measures prescribed by the WII, Dehradun and the suggestions made by Dr H S Singh and Prof R Sukumar, Members of NBWL.

43.1.24 Permission for investigation and survey for construction of National Highway (NH-3) bypass road in Son Chiriya Wildlife Sanctuary, Ghatigaon, Madhya Pradesh

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee on the proposal and stated that the Proposal was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 43rd meeting held during 27th June 2017. The user agency has suggested three options of which the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the *Option 1* whereas the State Board for Wildlife has recommended the *Option 3*. It was decided by the Standing Committee in its 43rd meeting that a Committee comprising of one representative of WII and one person from Wildlife Division would visit the project site and submit a report to the Ministry within a fortnight for further consideration. The Site Inspection was conducted on 30th - 31st August 2017 and submitted a report was received on 1st Sept 2017.

The Director, WII informed that the Site Inspection Committee noticed discrepancy between the alignments shown in the map of proposal and the alignments shown by the User

Agency on the ground during the field visit. The Site Inspection Committee has requested to carry out a joint resurvey by the User Agency and the State Forest Department and furnish information to this Ministry. The Chairman directed WII to carry out the joint survey and resubmit the report to the Ministry in a fortnight.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal.

41.4.1.4 Proposal for establishment and operating Retail Outlet with required facilities in private land situated in village Mishirpur, Plot Khasra No.223M right side of Asifabad - Garh road (MDR), Meerut District

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 41st meeting held on 2nd March 2017. Dr H S Singh, Member, NBWL observed that the Govt. land was also involved for the proposed project. He opined that the Govt. land should not be allowed to be used for setting up the facility. The Member has also suggested to seek the comments of the State Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh for further consideration. The comments of the State Chief Wildlife Warden were received on 6th Aug 2017 in which it was mentioned that there is no private land adjacent to the retail outlet available and therefore 0.0576286 ha of Govt. land is required for the entry and exists of vehicles from / to the retail outlet.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal.

✓ 44.1.6. Proposal for construction of Attargoo Sagam Mudh Bhawa Road km 33/500 to 61/930 in Spiti Division, HPPWD Kaza and km 0/0 to 44/400 in Karcham Division, HPPWD at Bhabanagar in Kinnaur District

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 44th meeting held during 29th July 2017. It was informed during the meeting that the proposal involved the diversion of 4.20 ha of forestland from the Rupi Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary for the construction of Attargoo Sagam -

Mudh Bhawa Road. However the DFO, Himachal Pradesh mentioned that the diversion of 43.70 ha of forestland was required for the laying of Attargoo Sagam - Mudh Bhawa road. The Standing Committee requested the State Government to submit the revised proposal.

The IGF(WL) also stated that the revised proposal has been submitted by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh. He mentioned further that the State PCCF in its letter dated 30.08.2017 requested to consider for the diversion of 39.50 ha for the construction of Attargoo Sagam Mudh Bhawa Road km 33/500 to 61/930 in Spiti Division and km 0/0 to 44/400 in Karcham Division, at Bhabanagar in Kinnaur District. He also mentioned that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal without imposing conditions.

After discussion the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal.

43.1.19 Realignment of area of the buffer area of Indravati Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal was considered in the 43rd and 44th meetings of the Standing Committee of NBWL. Dr H S Singh, Member NBWL had suggested to seek the recommendations of the State Chief Wildlife Warden for the consideration. During the 44th meeting, the State Chief Wildlife Warden informed that the recommendations would be submitted in two weeks. The IGF(WL) also stated that the recommendations of the State Chief Wildlife Warden, Chhattisgarh have not been received as yet.

After discussion the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal till the receipt of clarification from the State Government.

41.3 Change of status of forest land to revenue land when the former has been used to rehabilitate villages from core areas of National Parks / Wildlife Sanctuaries / Tiger Reserves forest land

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee that this policy issue was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 41st meeting held during 2nd March 2017. It was decided that in all those cases where the reserve forest has been used to rehabilitate villages from core

areas of National Parks / Wildlife Sanctuaries / Tiger Reserves, status of forestland would be changed to revenue land.

The Government of Maharashtra has requested that in all those cases where the forestland has been used to rehabilitate villages from core areas of National Parks / Wildlife Sanctuaries / Tiger Reserves, status of forestland rather reserve forest would be changed to revenue land.

After discussion the Standing Committee decided to recommend that *in all those cases where the forestland has been used to rehabilitate villages from core areas of National Parks / Wildlife sanctuaries / Tiger reserves, status of forestland would be changed to revenue land.*

ANNEXURE I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1	Shri Harsh Vardhan Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change	Chairman
2	Shri Ajay Narayan Jha, Secretary, MoEF&CC	Member
3	Shri Siddhanta Das, DGF&SS, MoEF&CC	Member
4	Dr V B Mathur, Director, WII, Dehradun	Member
5	Prof R Sukumar, Member, NBWL	Member
6	Dr H S Singh, Member, NBWL	Member
7	Shri R D Kamboj, Director, GEER Foundation, Gujarat	Member
8	Shri Debabrata Swain, ADGF & Member Secretary (NTCA)	Invitee
9	Shri Nishant Verma, DIGF (NTCA)	Invitee
10	Shri G V Reddy, Addl.Pr.CCF & CWLW, Rajasthan	Invitee
11	Shri P K Jha, PCCF (HoFF) & CWLW, Telangana	Invitee
12	Shri G K Sinha, PCCF, Gujarat	Invitee
13	Shri S K Upadhyay, CWLW, Uttar Pradesh	Invitee
14	Shri M K Rao, APCCF, Maharashtra	Invitee
15	Shri Kunal Angrish, DFO(WL), Himachal Pradesh	Invitee
16	Shri L K Verma, CF Meerut, Uttar Pradesh	Invitee
17	Dr Kausik Banerjee, Project Scientist, WII Dehradun	Invitee
18	Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, IGF(WL), MoEF&CC	Invitee
19	Shri S.P. Vashishth, DIGF(WL), MoEF&CC	Invitee
20	Dr Pasupala Ravi, Scientist (WL), MoEF&CC	Invitee