



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

6th Floor, Vayu Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi 110 003
Date: 25.03.2019

F.No.6-30/2019 WL

To

All Members
Standing Committee of NBWL

Sub: Minutes of 53rd Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life- reg.

Sir / Madam,

Kindly find enclosed copy of the Minutes of 53rd Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 25th February 2019 through Video Conference under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr Pasupala Ravi)
Scientist C

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 (Dept. of Envi., Forest, Science & Tech.), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
- (11) Shri Noyal Thomas, IGF & Director (PE)

Copy to

- (1) PS to Hon'ble MoEF&CC
- (2) PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
- (3) PPS to Addl.DGF(WL), PPS to IGF(WL)
- (4) CWLW, Bihar / CWLW, Gujarat / CWLW, Jammu & Kashmir / CWLW, Jharkhand / CWLW, Odisha / CWLW, Rajasthan / CWLW, Madhya Pradesh / CWLW, Maharashtra / CWLW, Uttarakhand / CWLW, Tamil Nadu

Further, the IGF(WL) stated that National Board for Wild Life, in its 18th meeting held on 12.04.2010, had rejected the proposal for widening of road involving felling of large number of trees resulting in fragmentation of the habitat of giant squirrel, highly endangered and flagship species of the sanctuary.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden clarified that the proposal is for the widening of the existing 8.0 m steps into 12.0 m steps with entrance gate, street lights, two toilet blocks and community space.

After discussions, the Standing Committee decided 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.
- (b) The State Chief Wildlife Warden shall prepare human - wildlife conflict mitigation plan and plan for wildlife conservation for the PA and amount deposited by the user agency as per the condition stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden should be used for implementation of these plans.
- (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 GoI.

53.3.14 **Proposal for construction of underground tunnel from Goregaon to Mulund**

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal involves the diversion of 19.43 ha of forestland for the construction of twin tunnels for housing road of 5.54 km (of 4.7 km length tunnel) underneath Sanjay Gandhi National Park and its ESZ. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with following conditions:

- (1) **The impact of the project on the Biodiversity needs to be assessed first along with Mitigation Measures for Wildlife.**
- (2) The proposal is recommended subject to the compliance of following conditions.
- (3) The project agency shall carry out a detailed study on the Aquifers of SGNP area with respect to Tulsi and Vihar lake. The proposal shall be cleared subject to the clearance from a reputed agency like Indian Institute of Technology, Powai that there shall be no damage to the aquifers and there shall be no damage to the water of Tulsi and Vihar lakes.

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- (4) In Nahur area, SGNP boundary wall and hill surface are in one line, so slum people are entering the park for defecation purpose since the proposed Tunnel exit is next to the wall, it will get damaged while laying the shaft and Tunnel work.
 - (5) The agency shall reconstruct the damaged wall and raise the height of wall to prevent unauthorized entries of the people. The length of wall to be repaired shall be decided by Chief Conservator of Forests & Director Sanjay Gandhi National Park Borivali.
 - (6) Next to the SGNP boundary wall, there are Encroachments in the Revenue area. Since Tunnel is opening in that Revenue area, the agency planned to rehabilitate around 700 encroachers of Nahur area. Within the park area, next to that location approximately 100 encroached huts are present. As per the State Government policy, the agency shall rehabilitate SGNP encroachers (100 in number) along with Nahur slum Rehabilitation by providing flats to the eligible encroaches of SGNP.
 - (7) The muck disposal plan shall be approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, and it shall be prepared by the agency.
 - (8) Detailed Hydrological studies shall be made with respect to the drainage of rain water during rainy season with respect to tunnel.
 - (9) It shall be the responsibility of the agency to maintain the air quality as prescribed by MoEFCC time to time.
 - (10) The forest department vehicles shall be permitted to use the tunnel without levying any toll.
 - (11) As decided in the 8th meeting of State Board for Wild Life held on 20th February 2014, the project proponent shall deposit 2% cost of the project (Rs.1997.50 Crores) which passes through Sanjay Gandhi National Park with the Sanjay Gandhi National Park of Maharashtra for the conservation of wildlife of Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary.

After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the project subject to the conditions that

- (a) Permission for starting the work on the project shall be granted by the state government only when road design is modified as per animal passage plan prepared for the portion outside the protected area by the project proponent in consultation with State Chief Wildlife Warden on the basis of WI guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*.
- (b) **The project proponent will comply with all the conditions imposed by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.**

- (c) The State Chief Wildlife Warden shall prepare human - wildlife conflict mitigation plan and plan for wildlife conservation for the PA and amount deposited by the user agency as per the condition stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden should be used for implementation of these plans.
- (d) 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 GoI.

53.3(i) Diversion of 160.94 ha of forest land from Wan Sanctuary for Akola-Khandawa (176 km) Gauge conversion works between Railway km.645.0 to km 983.0 between Akot & Amlakhurd Railway Station passing through Wan Sanctuary of Melghat Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra of South Central Railway

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal involving diversion of 160.94 ha of forestland from the Wan Sanctuary for Akola - Khandawa (176 km) Gauge conversion works between Railway 645.0 km to 983.0 km between Akot and Amlakhurd Railway Station passing through the Melghat Tiger Reserve, was recommended by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life, in its 40th meeting held on 03.01.2017, subject to mitigation measures and other conditions as may be suggested by the National Tiger Conservation Authority(NTCA) with assurance of implementation through MoU. Recently, two applications (1422 & 1423 of 2018) have been filed before the Central Empowered Committee against the said decision of the Standing Committee.

Further, the IGF(WL) mentioned that the NTCA has recommended that the only feasible mitigation is 'avoidance' of the broadening of gauge through the area of Melghat Tiger Reserve and options for the alternate routes / alignments bypassing the tiger reserve should be taken up by the concerned railway authorities. The Wildlife Institute of India has also recommended that only feasible mitigation is 'avoidance' of the broadening of gauge through the area of Melghat Tiger Reserve

In meeting the Member Secretary, NTCA mentioned that the proposed railway line 35 km long falls inside the Melghat Tiger Reserve, of which 18 km passes through the core area of the tiger reserve. Further, he stated that the proposed railway line gauge conversion work would fragment the critical tiger habitat. He also stated that alternate alignment surveyed by the railways which bypasses the tiger reserve can facilitate greater economic development of the region by connecting the 29 villages and large population

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1	Dr Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Env., Forest & Climate Change	Chairman
2	Shri C K Mishra, Secretary, MoEF&CC	Member
3	Shri Siddhanta Das, DGF & Special Secretary, MoEF&CC	Member
4	Shri M S Negi, ADGF(WL), MoEF&CC	Member Secretary
5	Dr H S Singh, Member, NBWL	Member
6	Shri R D Kamboj, Member, NBWL	Member
7	Dr G S Rawat, Dean, WII Dehradun, rep. of Director WII	member
8	Shri Saibal Dasgupta, ADGF(FC), MoEF&CC	Invitee
9	Shri A K Pandey, CWLW, Bihar	Invitee
10	Shri A K Saxena, PCCF&CWLW, Gujarat	Invitee
11	Shri P K Verma, CWLW, Jharkhand	Invitee
12	Shri S K Gupta, CWLW, Jammu & Kashmir	Invitee
13	Shri Alok Kumar, APCCF&CWLW, Madhya Pradesh	Invitee
14	Shri N H Kakodkar, PCCF&CWLW, Maharashtra	Invitee
15	Shri Sandeep Tripathy, CWLW, Odisha	Invitee
16	Shri A Tomar, CWLW, Rajasthan	Invitee
17	Shri H Malleswarappa, PCCF&CWLW, Tamil Nadu	Invitee
18	Shri S K Srivastava, APCCF(WL), Tamil Nadu	Invitee
19	Shri M Malick, PCCF&CWLW, Uttarakhand	Invitee
20	Shri A K Nayak, ADGF, NTCA	Invitee
21	Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, IGF(WL), MoEF&CC	Invitee
22	Shri A K Mohanty, IGF(FC), MoEF&CC	Invitee
23	Shri Nishant Verma, DIGF, NTCA	Invitee
24	Shri S P Vashishth, DIGF(WL), MoEF&CC	Invitee
25	Smt V L Roui Kullai, DIGF(WL), MoEF&CC	Invitee
26	Shri Sandeep Sharma, AIGF(FC), MoEF&CC	Invitee
27	Shri P Ravi, Scientist, MoEF&CC	Invitee