

19th Meeting of the Standing Committee of State Board of Wildlife on 22nd February, 2017 at 2.00 pm at Barbet Board Room, Forest Secretariat, Deorali.

The 19th meeting of the Standing Committee of State Board of Wildlife was held on 22nd February 2017 in the Forests Environment and Wildlife Management Department under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Forest Minister -cum- Vice Chairperson, SBWL Shri Tshering Wangdi Lepcha. List of participants is at Annexure I.

Meeting started with Member Secretary of the Standing Committee of the SBWL welcoming the Hon'ble Chairperson, the members and all other delegates and officials who were present in the meeting. He also briefed the participants about the details of last meeting and various agendas items to be discussed in this meeting. The agenda items were then taken up for discussions.

Agenda Item No 1:

Diversion of 0.531 ha. Forest Land for proposed re-alignment on the existing Lachung-Yumthang road to bypass heavy landslide between 14.00 km to 15.00 kms. in North Sikkim by 86 RCC (GREF), 99 APO.

The representative from the BRO was invited by the Member Secretary to present their proposal before the Committee. The representative stated that the old road between km 14 to km 15 in the Shingba Rhododendron Sanctuary was damaged by an avalanche in the year 2015 and requires realignment as the old road is prone to more landslides in the future and the revival of old road is uneconomical. He said that the old road shall remain as the sanctuary and no settlements will be allowed along the road.

The proposal was then taken up for discussions and the following conditions were laid down by the Standing Committee:

- i. *The boulders along the new road alignment can be used but the boulders along the old road alignment are to be left as it is and should remain undisturbed.*
- ii. *Except rock breakers no stone crusher machine or mixing plants are to be established or used in the sanctuary.*
- iii. *Construction activities within the Protected Area are to be completed within the timeframe of two months.*
- iv. *Muck dumping sites are to be demarcated outside the Sanctuary by the Forests Department and the area selected should not be fragile in nature.*
- v. *Except temporary labour camps no permanent settlements are to be allowed in the Sanctuary. The labour camps are to be removed after the completion of the road.*
- vi. *Botanizing of Rhododendron species along the road is recommended for which the involvement of BSI is proposed. The reassessment of Rhododendron species along the road is to be conducted and proper signboards are to be placed.*

Standing Committee of SBWL cleared the proposal alongwith the conditions prescribed above.

Agenda Item No 2:

Diversion of forest Land for providing drinking water to Sikkim University at Yangang from Barfung Khola to other sources by Water Security & PHE Department. Area involvement: PA=1.3218 ha. & RF= 0.73 ha.

The representative from the Water Security & PHE Department was invited by the Member Secretary to present their proposal before the Committee. The representative stated that there is no alternative water source in the area apart from the sanctuary. Three water sources have been identified i.e. Borfung, Changey and Peurey River. The water demand estimated for the Sikkim University is 13 lakhs liters per day. The project will be requiring laying of pipelines for a length of 10,500 meters and 1.2 meters width. It was also mentioned that 54 numbers of trees shall be felled.

The proposal was then taken up for discussions and the following conditions were laid down by the standing committee:

- i. *Pipe should be underground wherever possible.*
- ii. *For every interval of 2 Kms along the pipeline area, water holes & small ponds may be constructed for wild animals and birds.*
- iii. *Epiphytes w.r.t. 54 trees to be felled needs to be rehabilitated and maintained with the help of Botanical Survey of India and the Committee suggested Epiphytes Rehabilitation Centre within the Yangang town.*
- iv. *Water harvesting system in the campus is to be proposed and some part of water to be distributed to Yangang town.*
- v. *The location of Pressure break points are to be specified and intimated to the RO of the Sanctuary so that it can be used during forest fires..*
- vi. *Maintenance job for pipelines needs to be done only after obtaining permission from Sanctuary authorities.*

Standing Committee of SBWL cleared the proposal alongwith the conditions prescribed above.

Agenda Item No 3 & 4:

Diversion of 0.0259 ha of forest Land for Rural Water Supply Scheme from Tharey Khola Sribadam to Chingthang GPU.

And

Diversion of 0.433 ha of forest Land for Water Supply Scheme for SSB Stationed at Chittrey, Chewabhanjyang, Kalijhar and Torifuley (Indo Nepal Border) within Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary by Rural Management Development Department.

The representative from the Rural Management and Development Department was invited by the Member Secretary to present their proposal before the Committee.

The representative stated that there is shortage of water in the SSB stationed at Chittrey, Chewabhanjyang, Kalijhar and Torifuley and immediate need of water. There is requirement of water in Chingthang GPU as well. They presented their proposal area wise and said that there is no other alternative source of water apart from Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary.



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

6th Floor, Vayu Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bag Road
New Delhi 110 003
Date: 9th Aug 2017

F. No. 6-159/2017 WL

To
The Principal Secretary
Department of Forests, Environment and Wildlife Management
Forest Secretariat, Deorali
Gangtok 737 101

Sub: Minutes of the 44th Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL- reg.

Sir,

The 44th Meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife was held on 29th July 2017 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The following proposal pertaining to your State was considered:

Diversion of 1.32 ha of forestland for providing drinking water for Sikkim University at Yangang from Barfung Khola and other two sources falling under Maenan Wildlife Sanctuary, South Sikkim

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal involves the diversion of 1.32 ha of forestland from the Maenan Wildlife Sanctuary for laying of water pipeline. He added that the CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

1. The pipeline will be underground except in the rocky cliffs where digging the rocks will make the land more fragile.
2. Labour camps will not be permitted to be set up inside the sanctuary.
3. All workers need to obtain permits from working inside the sanctuary.
4. Construction materials should be stored in the identified area.
5. No additional felling of trees or destruction of wildlife habitat, exploitation or removal of any wildlife including forest produce from the sanctuary should take place.
6. Authorized sanctuary personnel will check the construction sites as and when required.
7. The project implementing authorities and workers will obey Dos and Don'ts of the sanctuary.
8. Even after completion of the project, the implementing agency shall inform and take permission from the forests, Environment & Wildlife Management Department for any kind of maintenance.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions imposed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

The above recommendation(s) are subject to the existing directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court and provisions of Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Pasupati Ravi)
Scientist C

E-mail: ddwlmef@gmail.com

226/CE/PHEO
22/09/2017



136/XCCY/PHEO
12/09/2017

Government of Sikkim

Office of the Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)

Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department

Forest Secretariat, Deorali- 737- 102, Gangtok

Email: wildlifecircleff@gmail.com

F. No. 353/WLC/F/165

Date: 11/09/2017

To,

The PCE-cum-Secretary,
Water Security & Public Health Engineering Department,
Government of Sikkim,
Gangtok.

Sub: Wildlife Clearance for diversion of forest Land (1.32 ha.) for providing drinking water to Sikkim University at Yangang from Barfung Khola and other two sources by Water Security & PHE Department.

Sir,

This is to inform you that the 44th meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife was held on 29th July, 2017 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forests & Climate Change. The above mentioned diversion case was considered in the meeting taking into account the following conditional laid down by CWLW in the Standing Committee, SBWL meeting:

1. The pipeline will be underground except in the rocky cliffs where digging the rocks will make the land more fragile.
2. Labour camps will not be permitted to be set up inside the Sanctuary.
3. All workers need to obtain permits for working inside the Sanctuary.
4. Construction materials should be stored in the identified area.
5. No additional felling of trees or destruction of wildlife habitat, exploitation or removal of nay wildlife including forest produce from Sanctuary should take place.
6. Authorized Sanctuary personnel will check the construction sites as and when required.
7. The project implementing authorities and workers will obey Dos and Don'ts of the Sanctuary.
8. Even after completion of the project, the implementation agency shall inform and take permission from the Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management for any kind of maintenance work.

Considering the importance of project in providing drinking water to Sikkim University at Yangang. The Standing Committee of NBWL decided to recommend the proposal alongwith the mitigation measures prescribed by the CWLW.

A copy of the minutes of the 44th Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL is enclosed. Therefore, you are requested to proceed with the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) Clearance in the concern sector of the Department.

Yours faithfully

(J.B. Subba) IFS

Accepted
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concerned
to records