

**51st MEETING OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL BOARD FOR WILDLIFE
14th NOVEMBER 2018**



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
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AGENDA FOR 51st MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL BOARD FOR WILDLIFE

AGENDA No. 1

51.1. Confirmation of the minutes of 50th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife was held on 7th September 2018

The minutes of 50th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife was held on 7th September 2018. Copy of the minutes is placed at **ANNEXURE 51.1**. However suggestions / representations have been received on the following proposals:

50.3.6.1 Re-notifying the boundaries of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary without reducing the area and extent (Fact Sheet ANNEXURE 51.2)

The Standing Committee of NBWL in its 50th meeting held on 7th September 2018 has recommended the proposal for the re-notification / rationalization of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary with an area of 395.608 sq.km excluding ~300 sq.km from the inadvertent area of 695.608 sq.km. subject to the conditions that the State Government will submit the draft notification to the MoEF&CC clearly specifying the revised boundaries prepared by the committee constituted by the State Government for the alteration of boundaries giving the justification for addition or deletion of the area.

Suggestions have been received from Dr H S Singh, Member, NBWL on the decisions of the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife was held on 7th September 2018 on the mentioned proposal as follows:

Previously, it was principally agreed by the NBWL and MoEFCC that the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries were to be treated as “no go areas”. When a project proposal within a national park or wildlife sanctuary was of national importance or urgently need in an extra-ordinary situation, it was considered and approved after field inspection and examination of the case. The Report of the High Level Committee on Forest and Environment Related Laws headed by Shri T.S.R. Subramanian Former Cabinet Secretary, Government of India has recommended that “*no go areas, which are in forest areas or inviolate zones – primarily with the criteria of over 70% canopy cover and ‘Protected Areas’ should not be disturbed except in exceptional circumstances, and that too only with the prior approval of the Union Cabinet*”. In the back ground of this fact, there is a need to evaluate the projects sanctioned in the Protected Areas during the recent years. Sometimes incomplete project or project not approved by the State Wildlife Board are included in the agenda for the meeting of the Standing Committee of the NBWL. In several cases, when the Standing Committee constituted a committee to examine the proposal after field verification, it was found that certain facts were suppressed/excluded or distorted in the project proposal. In many cases, the projects were implemented ignoring the term and conditions approved by the Standing Committee. Contrary to the recommendation of the high level committee, sometimes the Standing Committee sanctions big project which may have serious

consequences on long term conservation of the wildlife. Normally, one page note for the project without map is placed before the member of the Standing Committee. For big decision related to the substantial area within national park or wildlife sanctuary, it needs proper examination with detail information.

The proposal (Agenda no. 50.3.6) for denotification of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary is an example. The minutes of the meeting mentions “Renotifying the boundaries of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary without reducing the area and extent.” But one page note given to the Members of the NBWL mentioned reduction of the Sanctuary area from 695.608 sq. km. to 395.608. The proposal is for deletion of 300 sq. km. –a major decision. Such decision was never taken without examining such case by a Committee of the Standing Committee. Also, no area of any sanctuary was deleted without adding equivalent area to the sanctuary. It is pertinent to remind you that during discussion in the meeting, the member of the NTCA mentioned that the sanctuary is a part of the “Tiger Habitat”.

It is mentioned in the minutes of the meeting that the committee constituted by the State Government will prepare report for de-notifying the area. In present scenario, the most of the State Governments are willing to de-notify sanctuaries which they want for development project. This was not a decision in the Standing Committee. If this happen, it will open a new chapter. Rationalising the boundaries of a sanctuary may be necessary but it should be done after followings process and principles.

- (i) The headline of the proposal says “Renotifying the boundaries of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary without reducing the area and extent”. But proposal is for deletion of 300 sq. km without addition of any area. Before alternation of boundaries and reduction of area, equivalent other area (300 sq. km.) should be added to the sanctuary, as was done previous cases. In the past, the committees were constituted by the Standing Committee to examine rationalising the boundaries of some wildlife sanctuaries and the Standing Committee has taken decision as per the recommendation following certain principles.
- (ii) Such proposal should not be considered without examination of the proposal by a committee constituted by the Standing Committee consisting of a member of NTCA and senior officer of the MoEFCC.

The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.

AGENDA NO. 2

51.2. ACTION TAKEN REPORT

S.No.	Agenda Item	Action Taken	Category
1	46.3.1 Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, Madurai bench dated 22.08.2017 in Writ Petition (MD) No. 7349/2016 and Writ Petition (MD) No. 6174 of 2016 regarding stone quarries operating near Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary	<p>Proposal for the extension of mining lease in 2.50 ha located within 5 km from the boundary of Megamalai WLS was considered by the Standing Committee in its 46th meeting held on 8th December 2017 as directed by the Hon'ble High Court.</p> <p>Proposal was considered in 46th, 47th 48th 49th and 50th meetings of Standing Committee.</p> <p><i>Letter was sent on 27.09.2018 to the State Government to forward the proposal.</i></p> <p><i>Response is still awaited from the State.</i></p>	Mining
2	48.3.1. Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras dated 27.10.2017 in Writ Petition nos. 26106 to 26108 of 2017 title A. Gopinath vs., Union of India & ors, Gopinath operating near Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary	<p>Online proposal for the mining of granite quarry has been pending with the State Government since 12th January 2016.</p> <p>Proposal was considered in 46th, 47th 48th 49th and 50th meetings of Standing Committee.</p> <p><i>Letter was sent on 27.09.2018 to the State Government to forward the proposal.</i></p> <p><i>Response is still awaited from the State Government.</i></p>	

51.3. AGENDA NO. 3

1. AGENDA ITEMS OF JHARKHAND

A. FRESH PROPOSALS WITHIN PROTECTED AREAS

S.No.	State	F.No.	Subject
1	Jharkhand	6-81/2017 WL	Diversion of 1007.29 ha of forest land from Palamau Tiger Reserve for construction of North Koel Reservoir Project, Dist. Latehar, Jharkhand
2	Jharkhand	6-149/2018 WL	Proposal for diversion of 4.117 ha of forestland from Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary for construction / widening of 4/6 laning of Rargaon to Jamshedpur (Total Length 80 km) on NH-33

42.4.3.1 Diversion of 1007.29 ha of forest land from Palamau Tiger Reserve for construction of North Koel Reservoir Project, Dist. Latehar, Jharkhand (Fact Sheet ANNEXURE 51.3)

The Standing Committee of NBWL in its 43rd meeting held on 27th June 2017 has recommended the proposal along with the mitigation measures prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden and the conditions and mitigation measures as may be prescribed by the NTCA and the site inspection committee.

However the requisition letter vide dated 9th October 2018 was received from the State Government to amend the conditions imposed by the NTCA. This Ministry letter vide dated 16th October 2018 referred to the NTCA to furnish the comments on the requisition of the State Government.

The NTCA in its reply dated 24th October 2018 furnished comments as follows:

Para No.	Conditions imposed by FAC	View of the SBWL/ State Govt.	Comments of NTCA
ix	After ponding at 341.00 m, the linear water lake so created will partly fragment the PTR. This may compel elephants, tiger and other wildlife species to shift their movement/ dispersal routes through other villages such as the 13 Lat group of villages. As a good elephant population would continue to survive in the PTR after completion of the project, the conflicts between local people and elephant may turn serious in future. Hence, for better ecological integrity of the tiger reserve and minimizing human-wildlife conflicts, it is recommended for the resettlement of these 13 group of revenue village outside the PTR as per the procedure followed.	As there are approx. 168 other villages in PTR itself, hence resettlement of these 13 villages may not be feasible. These 13 villages are out of the submergence area of the reservoir, outside the PTR and not in the protected forest. There are approx. 4150 families living in those villages as per the 2011 data. Shifting of villages may create large scale displacement of population which will enhance the project cost, may take several years and may cause unrest among the affected people. Recommended for removal of this condition.	The recommendation of SBWL is agreed to.

xi	Betala area is loosely connected with the main area of the PTR through narrow width of forest. This corridor should be strengthened through transferring adjoining forest and government wastelands. As recommended by NBWL, families from a few villages such as Kerh and Garhi, fully or partly, should be settled outside the PTR as per guidelines of NTCA.	This is entirely extraneous to the project at hand. The condition mentioned in this para, has hardly any connection with this project and is also impractical. It will be very difficult to evacuate these villages due to strong resistance of the people who are not related to this project. Recommended for removal of this condition.	The recommendation of SBWL is agreed to with the condition that the tiger reserve management should make efforts to strengthen the corridor connectivity of Betala area with the area of Palamau Tiger Reserve by taking up the adjoining forest & govt. wastelands. However, this condition is not linked with the project.
xii	After completion of the project, the adjoining government wasteland (GM land/ Raiyati land) in the landscape should be transferred to PTR and its management should be integrated with the existing tiger habitat. The core area should be expanded suitably to cover adjoining uninhabited buffer zone or other forest areas to strengthen conservation measures, as proposed by the State Wildlife Board.	This is not required under the existing law. However, it may be taken up subject to availability of encumbrance free GM land and may be considered separately in the future. This should not be made a condition. The core area expansion is accepted and will be done by the forest department of the state. Recommended for removal of this condition.	The recommendation of SBWL is agreed to. However, the State authorities should make efforts to add the adjoining Govt. Wasteland (GM land/ Raiyati land) to Palamau Tiger Reserve for consolidation of the core area. However, this condition is not linked with the project.
xiv	The State Govt. and the user agency shall comply the recommendations made by the NTCA as per provisions of Section 38(0) (2), 38(0)(1) (b) and 38 (0) (1) (g) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 inclusive of recommendations of the NTCA Committee constituted in December, 2013,	As per the rules and provisions of the State Government, the R&R package has already been given to all 15 villages falling in submergence area corresponding to RL 367.28 m preparation of comprehensive plan keeping in mind the grievances of families still residing in	The recommendation of SBWL is agreed to with the recommendation of implementing the time bound settlement plan for settling the submergence villages before the start of project.

	<p>recommendation of the Committee constituted by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) vide its 42nd Meeting dated 21.07.2017</p> <p>d) the State Govt. shall comply the following recommendation of NBWL for mitigation measures:</p> <p>III. By the time sluice gates are readied for installation, the submergence villages should be shifted out of the tiger reserve, as per the project proponents, all the affected families have been given relief and rehabilitation assistance at the time of construction of the dam. However, many of them still reside in the same villages inside in the same villages inside the tiger reserve. Keeping the interests of local people, the observation of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and to avoid agitation of the people, a comprehensive plan should address grievances of all families in these villages. If necessary, funds from other sources may be made available to settle these people under an attractive settlement plan. If it is not done properly, some of the families may move into the upper catchment of the PTR after submergence of the villages. In such a situation, the loss of tiger habitat would be multiplied, causing</p>	<p>submergence villages will involve both time and additional financial resources. Further a fresh survey will be required to determine the number of such families. Recommended for preparation of settlement plan or 8 villages by Jal Sansadan Dept, Govt of Jharkhand & requesting for financial outlay to GOI for its implementation.</p> <p>As decided for the condition no (ix), which is same as this. Recommended for removal of this condition.</p>	<p>The recommendations of SBWL are agreed to.</p>
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	<p>enormous pressure on the PTR in future. The non-forest land in these 15 villages may be notified as forest land.</p> <p>IV. After pending at 341.0 m, the linear water lake will partly fragment the PTR. This may compel elephants, tiger and other wildlife species to shift their movement/ dispersal routes through other routes through other villages (such as the 13 Lat group of villages) As a good elephant population would continue to survive in the PTR after completion of the project, the conflicts between local people and elephant may turn serious in future. Hence, for better ecological integrity of the tiger reserve and minimizing human-wildlife conflicts, it is advisable to explore the resettlement of least some of these 13 Lat group of revenue villages outside the tiger reserve after obtaining their willingness. Villages willing for resettlement should be provided special financial and social development packages that go beyond the standard NTCA package for tiger reserves. In addition, sufficient funds should be provided to Palamau Tiger Reserve for dealing with human-wildlife conflicts including handling problematic animals and</p>		<p>The recommendation of SBWL is agreed to. However, the State authorities should make efforts to add the adjoining govt. wasteland (GM land /Raiyati land) to Palamau Tiger Reserve for consolidation of the core area.</p> <p>The recommendation of SBWL is agreed to with the condition that the tiger reserve management should make efforts to strengthen the corridor connectivity of Betala area with the area of Palamau Tiger Reserve by taking up the adjoining forest & govt. wastelands. However this condition is not linked with the project.</p>
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	<p>providing ex-gratia payments to the affected families.</p> <p>V. After completion of the period the tiger may lose substantial resource rich habitat. To compensate loss of the habitat adjoining government wasteland (GM land / Raiyati land) in the Landscape should be transferred to PTR and its management should be integrated with the existing tiger habitat.</p> <p>VIII. Betala area is loosely connected with the main area of the PTR through narrow width of forest. This corridor should be strengthened through transferring adjoining forest and government wastelands. This issue should be examined and if possible, the families from a few villages such as Kerh and Garhi, fully or partly, should be settled outside the PTR under a very attractive settlement package. The population of wild animals in Betla Ranges is isolated from the rest of the area due to swelling of size of these two villages and occupying the erstwhile thin corridors for wildlife management.</p>	<p>As decided for the condition no(xii), which is same as this. Recommended for removal of this condition.</p> <p>As decided for the condition no(xi), which is same as this. Recommended for removal of this condition.</p>	
xxi	<p>The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986:</p>	<p>Environment Clearance has already been accorded vide letter no.3/89/80-HCT/EM-5 dtd 02.01.1984 & letter no J-21011/37/2012-JA.I dtd. 19.06.2017 but the</p>	<p>Not pertaining to this Authority.</p>

	<p>Office, there exists many abandoned buildings, temporary structures, labour huts etc. Spread over more than 20 hectares of land near the dam site. All structures are in dilapidated condition and need to be demolished at the project cost to prevent encroachment/ unauthorized occupancy of the forest land if any Even if the land has been diverted to the water resources department in the past, the same will be returned to the Forest department if it is no longer required for project activities The status of the land needs to be verified by the state authorities as the land is in continuity of forest area and has been apparently utilized by the project authorities during construction phase of the dam.</p>	<p>condition may be used temporarily during the construction period However, after the construction, these will be returned to the Forest Department.</p> <p>Recommended for removal of this condition</p>	
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The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.

1	Name of the Proposal	Proposal for diversion of 4.117 ha of forestland from Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary for construction / widening of 4/6 laning of Rargaon to Jamshedpur (Total Length 80 km) on NH-33
2	Name of the protected Area involved	Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary
3	File No.	6-149/2018 WL
4	Name of the State	Jharkhand
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	19322.10 ha
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion/ Denotification	4.117 ha
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	147.90 for various development projects in 2011
8	Status of ESZ, if any	Notified on 29.03.2012 ESZ extends up to 5.0 km Project is passing through PA
9	Name of the applicant agency	NHAI, GoI
10	Total number of tree to be felled	NIL
11	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	Yes
12	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife SBWL recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 23.05.2018.	
13	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency Proposal is for construction / widening 4/6 laning of Rargaon to Jamshedpur (Total Length 80 km) on NH-33 requires 4.117 ha of forestland from Dalma WLS. The project would improve transportation facility. However the project would create barrier for the elephant movement.	
14	Rare and endangered species found in the area Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary is home to elephant, leopard, sloth bear, sambhar, cheetal, barking deer, nilgai, wild boar, giant squirrel, jackal, fox, hyaena, langur, porcupine, etc., besides a variety of bird and reptile species.	
15	Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions: (1) No labour camps should be established within 100 m of the boundary of wildlife sanctuaries. (2) A committee comprising of wildlife officials of the sanctuary and user agency i.e., NHAI should be formed for continuous monitoring in the sanctuary area during construction period. (3) No construction material should be stored within 100 m from the boundary of the sanctuary. (4) No construction material, viz., sand, soil, stone, etc., will be taken from the sanctuary or forest area (5) Safety signages for lowering the speed of vehicle must be installed, updated and cleaned regularly. (6) The speed of vehicles should be limited to maximum 40 km / hr so that sound effect as well as risk or hitting wild animals through road should be minimized. (7) A complete ban on the blowing of vehicle horns along the highway inside the sanctuary and its ESZ	

	<p>zone should be enforced.</p> <p>(8) There should be sufficient road signages written in Hindi and English on both sides of the road with reference to the presence of wild animals.</p>
16	<p>Comments of Ministry</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.</p>

B. FRESH PROPOSALS WITHIN 10 KM FROM THE BOUNDARY OF PROTECTED AREAS

Following are the proposals for taking up non-forestry activities within Protected Areas:

S.No.	State	F.No.	Subject
1	Jharkhand	6-151/2018 WL	Proposal for construction of Nature & Wildlife Awareness Centre in Koderma
2	Jharkhand	6-136/2018 WL	Saidpur Bujrug china clay and silica sand mine in Mouza Saidpur Bujrug-21, P.S Rajmahal, Plot No. 402, District Sahebgunj, Jharkhand

1	Name of the Proposal	Proposal for construction of Nature & Wildlife Awareness Centre in Koderma
2	Name of the protected Area involved	Koderma Wildlife Sanctuary
3	File No.	6-151/2018 WL
4	Name of the State	Jharkhand
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	150.62 sq. km
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion/ Denotification	0.267 ha
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	NIL
8	Status of ESZ, if any	Draft notified on 21.02.2018 ESZ extends up to 5.0 km Project falls on the boundary of PA
9	Name of the applicant agency	DC Koderma, Jharkhand
10	Total number of tree to be felled	NIL
11	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	Yes
12	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife	SBWL recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 23.05.2018.
13	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency	Proposal is for construction of Nature & Wildlife Awareness Centre in Koderma requires 0.267 ha of forestland located at the edge of the outer boundary of Koderma WLS. The project may have potential to educate the significant number of local people about the importance and significance of the conservation of forest and wildlife.
14	Rare and endangered species found in the area	Koderma Wildlife Sanctuary is home to tiger, elephant, leopard, sloth bear, sambhar, cheetal, barking deer, nilgai, wild boar, giant squirrel, jackal, fox, hyaena, langur, porcupine, etc., besides a variety of bird and reptile species.
15	Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden	Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal without imposing conditions.
16	Comments of Ministry	The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.

1	Name of the Proposal	Saidpur Bujrug china clay and silica sand mine in Mouza Saidpur Bujrug-21, P.S Rajmahal, Plot No. 402, District Sahebgunj, Jharkhand
2	Name of the protected Area involved	Udhuwa Lake Bird Sanctuary
3	File No.	6-136/2018 WL
4	Name of the State	Jharkhand
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	565 ha
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion/ Denotification	NIL
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	NIL
8	Status of ESZ, if any	State Govt. has not forwarded the proposal
9	Name of the applicant agency	M/s. Smt. Agnes Selina Mandal, Village- Kasim Bazar, Post- Rajmahal, Jharkhand-816108
10	Total number of tree to be felled	NIL
11	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES
12	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 23.05.2018.	
13	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency It is a mining project of silica and china clay in the private land of 7.12 ha located at the distance of 9.5 km away from Udhuwa Lake Bird Sanctuary. The excavation of raw materials will be carried out without any blasting. This project will benefit the local people by providing employment opportunity and local development by CSR activities.	
14	Rare and endangered species found in the area Udhwa Bird Sanctuary is home to migratory birds including pratincole, egret, wagtail, plover, lapwing, stork, ibis, heron, etc.	
15	Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden The CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions: (1) No blasting activity during the processing of mining. (2) Assist the forest officials to prevent any commission of offence with respect to wildlife.	
16	Comments of Ministry The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.	

2. AGENDA ITEMS OF RAJASTHAN

A. FRESH PROPOSALS WITHIN PROTECTED AREAS

S.No.	State	F.No.	Subject
1	Rajasthan	6-142/2018 WL	Construction of Babai (RRPVNL) – Bhiwani (PG) 400 KV D/C Transmission Line

1	Name of the Proposal	Construction of Babai (RRPVNL) – Bhiwani (PG) 400 KV D/C Transmission Line
2	Name of the protected Area involved	Khetri Bansyal Conservation Reserve
3	File No.	6-142/2018 WL
4	Name of the State	Rajasthan
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	75999.462 ha
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion/ Denotification	7.452 ha
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	NIL
8	Status of ESZ, if any	State Govt. has not forwarded the proposal
9	Name of the applicant agency	NRSS XXXVI Transmission Limited, A 26/3, Mohan Cooperation Industrial Estate, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi
10	Total number of tree to be felled	NIL
11	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES
12	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal by circulation on 13.07.2018.	
13	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency The Babai (RRVPNL) – Bhiwani (PGCIL) 400 kV D/C Transmission Line starting from RRVPNL Switchyard located at Babai, Rajasthan and terminating at 400Kv Bhiwani Switchyard, passing through district of Haryana (Mahendragarh and Bhiwani) and Rajasthan (Jhunjhunu). The route of the above line is passing through forest area of 7.452 ha in the Khetri Bansyal Conservation Reserve under Jhunjhunu Forest Division in Rajasthan. The conservation reserve cannot be avoided and hence we have tried out best to minimize the use of land within the conservation reserve. The chosen route is optimal route with minimum forest area involved in the project along with best construction and maintenance facility and cost efficient. This project will benefit the local people by providing employment opportunity and local development by CSR activities.	
14	Rare and endangered species found in the area Khetri Bansyal Conservation Reserve is home to migratory birds, leopard, crocodile, sambhar, chital, wild boar, sloth bear, etc.	
15	Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden The CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions: (1) 5% of proportional project cost of the project falling within the ESZ of protected area should be deposited in the Rajasthan Protected Area Conservation Society by the user agency for development and protection measures in MHTR. (2) No work shall be done before sunrise and after sunset in the project area. (3) No material of any kind should be extracted from the protected area and eco-sensitive zone. (4) There will be no felling of trees and burning of fuel wood inside the protected area and eco-	

	<p>sensitive zone.</p> <p>(5) The waste material generated should be disposed outside the protected area and eco-sensitive zone.</p> <p>(6) There will be no labor camp within 1 km from the boundary of protected area.</p> <p>(7) No blasting will be carried out within 1 km from the boundary of protected area during the work.</p> <p>(8) There shall be no high mast / beam / search lights high sounds within 1 km from the boundary of protected area.</p> <p>(9) Signages regarding information about the wild animals in the area control of the traffic volumes, speed, etc., should be erected in the project area.</p> <p>(10) Maintenance activity of any nature should be carried out only after seeking formal approval from competent authority of the protected area.</p> <p>(11) The user agency shall conform to the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas given by MoEF&CC dated 24.10.2016.</p> <p>(12) The user agency and project personnel will comply with the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.</p> <p>(13) For diversion of forestland the user agency will obtain permission / approval of the competent authority under provisions of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 as per order of dated 28.03.2008 and 3/2007 FC dated 05.02.2009</p>
16	<p>Comments of Ministry</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.</p>

3. AGENDA ITEMS OF UTTARAKHAND

A. FRESH PROPOSALS WITHIN PROTECTED AREAS

S.No.	State	F.No.	Subject
1	Uttarakhand	6-121/2018 WL	Diversion of 0.321 ha of forestland for construction of approach road to Bhiladu Stadium
2	Uttarakhand	6-120/2018 WL	Construction of road from Saur to Olsa in Block Mori, district Uttarakashi

1	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 0.321 ha of forestland for construction of approach road to Bhiladu Stadium
2	Name of the protected Area involved	Mussoorie Wildlife Sanctuary
3	File No.	6-121/2018 WL
4	Name of the State	Uttarakhand
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	1081.97 ha
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion/ Denotification	0.312 ha
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	NIL
8	Status of ESZ, if any	ESZ proposal has been received and is under scrutiny
9	Name of the applicant agency	Sports Department, Uttarakhand
10	Total number of tree to be felled	75 trees
11	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES
12	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife No State Board for Wildlife recommendations.	
13	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency The proposed project requires the diversion of 0.321 ha of forestland for construction of 0.52 km approach road to Bhiladu Stadium passing through PA. It has the public utility.	
14	Rare and endangered species found in the area Mussoorie Wildlife Sanctuary is home to leopard, Himalayan black bear, wild boar, Langur, Indian hare, barking deer, wild pig, nilgai, spotted deer, mongoose, etc.	
15	Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden The state CWLW has recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions: (1) The proponent will take all necessary steps to avoid unscientific construction activity. (2) The proposed construction is executed should be completed within a stipulated time frame. (3) Use of any type of explosive during construction work will be strictly prohibited. (4) Apart from the other terms and conditions, the various guidelines and instructions issued by MoEF at the time of awarding requisite sanction under FCA 1980, must be followed by the user agency and required amount as stipulated by MoEF should be deposited by the user agency accordingly.	
16	Comments of Ministry The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.	

1	Name of the Proposal	Construction of road from Saur to Olsa in Block Mori, district Uttarakashi			
2	Name of the protected Area involved	Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Sanctuary			
3	File No.	6-120/2018 WL			
4	Name of the State	Uttarakhand			
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice			
6	Area of the protected area	95796.90 ha			
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion/ Denotification	10.45 ha			
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	S.No.	Project Name	Area diverted (in ha)	Year of diversion
		1	Netwar Sewa Road	4.634	1987
		2	Youth hostel	4.0	1982
		3	Hydro electric project	0.1235	1996
		Total : 8.7575 ha			
8	Status of ESZ, if any	ESZ proposal has not been received from the State Govt.			
9	Name of the applicant agency	PMGSY Irrigation Division, Purola, Uttarakashi			
10	Total number of tree to be felled	NIL			
11	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES			
12	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife SBWL recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15.06.2018				
13	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency Proposal is for construction of road from Saur to Olsa of length 28.10 km in Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Sanctuary. It has objectives of fast and safe connectivity, decongestion of traffic in the project road, savings in fuel, travel time and total transportation cost of road users, due to improved road condition, reduction road accidents, reduction pollution due to constant flow, employment opportunity to people, quick transportation of agricultural products and perishable goods like fruits, vegetables, milk, etc.				
14	Rare and endangered species found in the area Govind Pashu Vihar National Park is home to black bear, brown bear, leopard, musk deer, bharal, Himalayan tahr, serow, Indian crested porcupine, European otter, goral, civet, hedgehog, Himalayan field rat, Hodgson's giant flying squirrel, wild boar, masked palm civet and Sikkim mountain vole. Birds found here include golden eagle, steppe eagle, black eagle, bearded vulture, Himalayan snow-cock, Himalayan monal pheasant, cheer pheasant, western tragopan, etc.				
15	Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden The CWLW has recommended the project without imposing conditions:				

16	Comments of Ministry The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.
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B. FRESH PROPOSALS WITHIN 10 KM FROM THE BOUNDARY OF PROTECTED AREAS

S.No.	State	F.No.	Subject
1	Uttarakhand	6-126/2018 WL	Extraction / collection of sand / bajri / boulder from an area of 1.291 ha at Village Karokh, Tehsil Ukhimath, District Rudrprayag
2	Uttarakhand	6-128/2018 WL	Picking of Balu / Bajri / Boulder mine at Village- Dhakrani, Tehsil- Vikasnagar, District- Dehradun, with an area 2.748 ha in respect of Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve
3	Uttarakhand	6-138/2018 WL	NOC for river Asan, Lot No. 14/10 Sand, Bajri and Boulder mining on Asan riverbed at Village- Fatehpur, Dharmawala & Pratitpur, Area 62.0 ha falls at a distance of 0.92 km away from the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve, District- Dehradun
4	Uttarakhand	6-139/2018 WL	NOC for river Yamuna, Lot No. 21/3 Sand, Bajri and Boulder mining on Yamuna riverbed at Village- Dhakrani, Gandbhewa, Area 68.364 ha falls at a distance of 1.34 km away from the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve, District- Dehradun
5	Uttarakhand	6-140/2018 WL	NOC for Sand, Bajri and Boulder mining on Yamuna riverbed at Village- Dakpathar, Nawabharh, Mandi Ganghbhewa and Bhimawala, Area 123.19 ha falls at a distance of 4.50 km away from the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve, District- Dehradun
6	Uttarakhand	6-141/2018 WL	NOC for Sand, Bajri and Boulder mining on Kalirao riverbed at Village- Marotha and Dhanaula, Area 3.288 ha, falls at a distance of 4.50 km away from the Mussoorie Wildlife Sanctuary, District- Dehradun

1	Name of the Proposal	Extraction / collection of sand / bajri / boulder from an area of 1.291 ha at Village Karokh, Tehsil Ukhimath, District Rudrprayag
2	Name of the protected Area involved	Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary
3	File No.	6-126/2018 WL
4	Name of the State	Uttarakhand
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	97517 ha
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion/ Denotification	NIL
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	6.3571 ha was diverted for various development projects
8	Status of ESZ, if any	Draft notified on 13.12.2017 ESZ extends up to 11.60 km Project comes under prohibited activity as per draft ESZ
9	Name of the applicant agency	Mr Mahaveer Singh Rawat, Village Karokh, Tehsil Ukhimath, District Rudrprayag
10	Total number of tree to be felled	NIL
11	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES
12	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15.06.2018.	
13	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency The proposal for the collection of 9682.5 cum of sand / bajri / boulder from Mandakini riverbed of an area of 1.291 ha located at a distance of 4.18 km from the Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary. This project is very essential to prevent widening of the riverbed due to the deposition of sediments which if not mined out will cause flooding, damage to the adjoining area, destruction of life and property. This can only be prevented by maintaining the river flow within the existing middle course of the river. In addition to this the production of minerals will benefit the State in the form of Royalty and help in development activity in the State. The project will generate direct and indirect employment opportunities for the people in nearby villages. Also the mine management will initiate various socio-economic developments as a part of CSR Activity-I nearby villages which will improve the socio-economic status of the area.	
14	Rare and endangered species found in the area Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary is home to jackal, fox, himalayan black bear, yellow throated marten, leopard cat, common leopard, snow leopard, etc.	
15	Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden CWLW has recommended the proposal with the condition that the working agency will ensure the safety measures and no disturb the wildlife.	
16	Comments of Ministry The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.	

1	Name of the Proposal	Picking of Balu / Bajri / Boulder mine at Village-Dhakrani, Tehsil- Vikasnagar, District- Dehradun, with an area 2.748 ha in respect of Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve
2	Name of the protected Area involved	Asan Wetland Conservation
3	File No.	6-128/2018 WL
4	Name of the State	Uttarakhand
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	1081.97 ha
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion/ Denotification	NIL
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	NIL
8	Status of ESZ, if any	State Govt. has not forwarded the proposal
9	Name of the applicant agency	Shri Nafessh Ahmad, R/o Timil, Tehsil- Vikasnagar, District- Dehradun
10	Total number of tree to be felled	NIL
11	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES
12	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15.06.2018.	
13	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency The proposal for the collection of Sand, Bajri and Boulder Mining (area: 2.748 ha) from the Yamuna riverbed is located at a distance of 3.55 km from the Aasan Wetland Conservation Reserve. This project is very essential to prevent widening of the riverbed due to the deposition of sediments which if not mined out will cause flooding, damage to the adjoining area, destruction of life and property. This can only be prevented by maintaining the river flow within the existing middle course of the river. In addition to this the production of minerals will benefit the State in the form of Royalty and help in development activity in the State. The project will generate direct and indirect employment opportunities for the people in nearby villages. Also the mine management will initiate various socio-economic developments as a part of CSR Activity-I nearby villages which will improve the socio-economic status of the area.	
14	Rare and endangered species found in the area Asan Conservation Reserve supports healthy aquatic bird population and is famous for winter migratory birds. Mammalian wildlife namely wild pig, goral, nilgai, spotted deer, Rhesus macaque, Indian grey mongoose, etc.	
15	Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden The CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions: (1) No mining activity in the rainy season. (2) No mining activity in the night. (3) Machines should not be allowed for mining.	

	(4) Only manual mining should be allowed.
16	Comments of Ministry The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.

1	Name of the Proposal	NOC for river Asan, Lot No. 14/10 Sand, Bajri and Boulder mining on Asan riverbed at Village- Fatehpur, Dharmawala & Pratitpur, Area 62.0 ha falls at a distance of 0.92 km away from the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve, District- Dehradun
2	Name of the protected Area involved	Aasan Wetland Conservation Reserve
3	File No.	6-138/2018 WL
4	Name of the State	Uttarakhand
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	444.40 ha
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion/ Denotification	NIL
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	NIL
8	Status of ESZ, if any	State Govt. has not forwarded the proposal
9	Name of the applicant agency	M/s. Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd., Dehradun, Uttarakhand
10	Total number of tree to be felled	NIL
11	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES
12	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15.06.2018.	
13	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency The proposal for the collection of Sand, Bajri and Boulder Mining (area: 62.0 ha) from the Asan riverbed is located at a distance of 0.92 km from the Aasan Wetland Conservation Reserve. This project is very essential to prevent widening of the riverbed due to the deposition of sediments which if not mined out will cause flooding, damage to the adjoining area, destruction of life and property. This can only be prevented by maintaining the river flow within the existing middle course of the river. In addition to this the production of minerals will benefit the State in the form of Royalty and help in development activity in the State. The project will generate direct and indirect employment opportunities for the people in nearby villages. Also the mine management will initiate various socio-economic developments as a part of CSR Activity-I nearby villages which will improve the socio-economic status of the area.	
14	Rare and endangered species found in the area Asan Conservation Reserve supports healthy aquatic bird population and is famous for winter migratory birds. Mammalian wildlife namely wild pig, goral, nilgai, spotted deer, Rhesus macaque, Indian grey mongoose, etc.	
15	Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden The CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions: (1) No mining activity in the rainy season. (2) No mining activity in the night.	

	(3) Machines should not be allowed for mining. (4) Only manual mining should be allowed.
16	Comments of Ministry The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.

1	Name of the Proposal	NOC for river Yamuna, Lot No. 21/3 Sand, Bajri and Boulder mining on Yamuna riverbed at Village- Dhakrani, Gandbhewa, Area 68.364 ha falls at a distance of 1.34 km away from the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve, District- Dehradun
2	Name of the protected Area involved	Aasan Wetland Conservation Reserve
3	File No.	6-139/2018 WL
4	Name of the State	Uttarakhand
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	444.40 ha
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion/ Denotification	NIL
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	NIL
8	Status of ESZ, if any	State Govt. has not forwarded the proposal
9	Name of the applicant agency	M/s. Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd., Dehradun, Uttarakhand
10	Total number of tree to be felled	NIL
11	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES
12	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife	State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15.06.2018.
13	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency	The proposal for the collection of Sand, Bajri and Boulder Mining (area: 68.364 ha) from the Yamuna riverbed is located at a distance of 1.34 km from the Aasan Wetland Conservation Reserve. This project is very essential to prevent widening of the riverbed due to the deposition of sediments which if not mined out will cause flooding, damage to the adjoining area, destruction of life and property. This can only be prevented by maintaining the river flow within the existing middle course of the river. In addition to this the production of minerals will benefit the State in the form of Royalty and help in development activity in the State. The project will generate direct and indirect employment opportunities for the people in nearby villages. Also the mine management will initiate various socio-economic developments as a part of CSR Activity-I nearby villages which will improve the socio-economic status of the area.
14	Rare and endangered species found in the area	Asan Conservation Reserve supports healthy aquatic bird population and is famous for winter migratory birds. Mammalian wildlife namely wild pig, goral, nilgai, spotted deer, Rhesus macaque, Indian grey mongoose, etc.
15	Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden	The CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions: (1) No mining activity in the rainy season. (2) No mining activity in the night.

	<p>(3) Machines should not be allowed for mining.</p> <p>(4) Only manual mining should be allowed.</p>
16	<p>Comments of Ministry</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.</p>

1	Name of the Proposal	NOC for Sand, Bajri and Boulder mining on Yamuna riverbed at Village- Dakpathar, Nawabharh, Mandi Ganghbhewa and Bhimawala, Area 123.19 ha falls at a distance of 4.50 km away from the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve, District- Dehradun
2	Name of the protected Area involved	Aasan Wetland Conservation Reserve
3	File No.	6-141/2018 WL
4	Name of the State	Uttarakhand
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	444.40 ha
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion/ Denotification	NIL
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	NIL
8	Status of ESZ, if any	State Govt. has not forwarded the proposal
9	Name of the applicant agency	M/s. Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd., Dehradun, Uttarakhand
10	Total number of tree to be felled	NIL
11	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES
12	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife	State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15.06.2018.
13	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency	The proposal for the collection of Sand, Bajri and Boulder Mining (area: 123.19 ha) from the Yamuna riverbed is located at a distance of 4.50 km from the Aasan Wetland Conservation Reserve. This project is very essential to prevent widening of the riverbed due to the deposition of sediments which if not mined out will cause flooding, damage to the adjoining area, destruction of life and property. This can only be prevented by maintaining the river flow within the existing middle course of the river. In addition to this the production of minerals will benefit the State in the form of Royalty and help in development activity in the State. The project will generate direct and indirect employment opportunities for the people in nearby villages. Also the mine management will initiate various socio-economic developments as a part of CSR Activity-I nearby villages which will improve the socio-economic status of the area.
14	Rare and endangered species found in the area	Asan Conservation Reserve supports healthy aquatic bird population and is famous for winter migratory birds. Mammalian wildlife namely wild pig, goral, nilgai, spotted deer, Rhesus macaque, Indian grey mongoose, etc.
15	Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden	The CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions: (1) No mining activity in the rainy season. (2) No mining activity in the night. (3) Machines should not be allowed for mining. (4) Only manual mining should be allowed.
16	Comments of Ministry	The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.

1	Name of the Proposal	NOC for Sand, Bajri and Boulder mining on Kalirao riverbed at Village- Marotha and Dhanaula, Area 3.288 ha, falls at a distance of 4.50 km away from the Mussoorie Wildlife Sanctuary, District- Dehradun
2	Name of the protected Area involved	Mussoorie Wildlife Sanctuary
3	File No.	6-141/2018 WL
4	Name of the State	Uttarakhand
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	1081.97 ha
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion/ Denotification	NIL
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	NIL
8	Status of ESZ, if any	State Govt. has not forwarded the proposal
9	Name of the applicant agency	M/s. Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd., Dehradun, Uttarakhand
10	Total number of tree to be felled	NIL
11	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES
12	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife	State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15.06.2018.
13	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency	The proposal for the collection of Sand, Bajri and Boulder Mining (area: 3.288 ha) from the boundary of Mussoorie Wildlife Sanctuary, located block I at 7.40 km and block II at 7.81 – 8.00 km away from the boundary of the Sanctuary. This project is very essential to prevent widening of the riverbed due to the deposition of sediments which if not mined out will cause flooding, damage to the adjoining area, destruction of life and property. This can only be prevented by maintaining the river flow within the existing middle course of the river. In addition to this the production of minerals will benefit the State in the form of Royalty and help in development activity in the State. The project will generate direct and indirect employment opportunities for the people in nearby villages. Also the mine management will initiate various socio-economic developments as a part of CSR Activity-I nearby villages which will improve the socio-economic status of the area.
14	Rare and endangered species found in the area	Sanctuary supports mammalian wildlife namely leopard, Himalayan black bear, wild boar, Langur, Indian hare, barking deer, wild pig, nilgai, spotted deer, mongoose, etc.
15	Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden	The CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions: (1) No mining activity in the night. (2) Speed breaker to be made on the road to avoid high speed of vehicles involved in mining for protection of wildlife.
16	Comments of Ministry	The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.

**MINUTES OF 50th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL BOARD
FOR WILDLIFE WAS HELD OF 7th SEPTEMBER 2018**

The 50th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife was held on 7th September 2018 through Video Conference under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change. List of participants are placed at ANNEXURE- I.

Hon'ble Chairman welcomed all the participants to the 50th 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 49th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 13th June 2017

The IGF(WL) mentioned that the minutes of the 49th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 13th June 2017 were circulated to all the members of the Standing Committee on 29th June 2017. However representations were received from the State Government of Maharashtra to amend the minutes of 49th meeting of the Standing Committee on the following proposals:

- 49.4.2.1 Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes by M/s. Reliable Housing India Pvt. Ltd. at Village Achole, Ta. Vasai, Dist. Palghar. Sy.No. 153-B,154 (pt)**
- 49.4.2.2 Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial construction project by M/s. Rashmi Ameya Developers Housing and Estate Realtors Pvt. Ltd. at Village Gokhivare, Ta. Vasai, Dist. Palghar Sy.No.62 H.No.1&7, Sy.No 63 & others Sy.Nos.**
- 49.4.2.3 Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes by M/s. Ameya Townhome Private Limited at Village Sandor, Ta. Vasai, Dist. Palghar Sy.No.230 H.No. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8; Sy.No.231 H.No.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&9; Sy.No.235 H.No.1/2,2,3,4, 5,6,7,8,9,10,11/1&11/2 and Sy.No 236-H.No.1,2,3,7,8,11,12,13,14, 15,17,18,19,20,21,22, 23-part, 24,25A,25B,27,28 & 29**
- 49.4.2.4 Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes M/s. Navkar Estate & Home Private Limited in Village Juchandra Ta. Vasai, Dist. Palghar Sy.No.332/1,2,3,4,6A,6B,7,B,333/1,2,335/1,2,336/2,3C,3D,3F & 351/1,2**
- 49.4.2.5 Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes by M/s. Shree Tirupati Developers at Village Manpada Ta. & Dist. Thane, Sy.No.59A/2E, 59A/2F & 59A/3A, Borivali**

- 49.4.2.6** Proposal for construction of residential cum commercial complexes at Village Temghar Sy.No.128/3,129/1,129/2 and Bhadwad Sy.No.40/1P,40/2/2,40/3/2,40/4,40/5,40/6,40/7,40/8,40/9,40/10,40/11,40/12,40/13/1P,40/13/2,42,43/1,43/2,43/3,44/1P,44/2P,44/2/P,44/3/1,44/3/2,44/4,4/5,44/6,45/1,45/2P,45/3P,45/4,5/5,45/6,45/7,45/8,45/9,45/12,58/6,58/7/1,58/7/2,58/8,58/9,58/11,58/12,58/13,58/1,58/16,58/17,58/18,58/19,58/20,58/21,58/22,83/3,83/4,83/6,83/,83/9,84/1 on plot bearing at Ta. Bhiwandi, Dist. Thane by M/s. Prakhhyat Dwellings LLP
- 49.4.2.7** Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes in the Eco-Sensitive Zone of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park and deemed Eco- Sensitive Zone of the Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary (TWLS) at plot bearing S. No. 51/26, 69/13 of Village: Mire and S.No.76/1/2 of Village Mahajanwadi, Taluka & Dist. Thane, Maharashtra by Sanghvi Premises Pvt. Ltd
- 49.4.2.8** Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes in the Eco-Sensitive Zone of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park and deemed Eco- Sensitive Zone of the Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary (TWLS) at Village: Vadavali- Survey Nos. 21/1,21/3, 21/4,21/5,21/6, 21/7,21/8A,21/8B and Village Owale, Old Survey Nos. (New Survey Nos.) 107/8 (72/8), 112/1(71/1),113/1(66/1),113/2 (66/2),113/4),(66/4),113/6 to 19 (66/6 to 19),113/21 to 23 (66/21 to 23),114/1&2(65/1&2),120/1(45/1) in Taluka & District: Thane, Maharashtra by Unnathi Associates
- 49.4.2.9** Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes on plot bearing Old S.No. 98/1A, 1B, New S.No.98/3, and New S.No. 100/11/1,2 & 4 Bhayandarpada, Ghodbunder Road, Thane by M/s. Puranik Builders Pvt. Ltd
- 49.4.2.10** Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes is situated on plot bearing Sy.No.67(111)/1,67(111)/2,67(111)/3,67/(111)/4,67(111)/5,67(111)/6,67(111)/7,109(70)/1,109(70)/2,71(112)/3,71(112)/4,71(112)/5,72(107)/4,72(107)/6B,110/1,68(110)/3 of Village– Owale, Ghodbunder Road, Thane by M/s. Sai Pushp Enterprises (PRARAMBH V)
- 49.4.2.11** Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes on plot bearing S.No73(108)1,73(108)/2,73(108)/3,73(108)/4,73(108)/5,73(108)/6,73/(108)7,73(108)/8 of Village Owale, Ghodbunder road, Thane by M/s. Sai Pushp Enterprises (PRARAMBH V)
- 49.4.2.12** Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes on plot bearing S.No.21/11A,21/9, 22/5,22/1,23/2/1, 23/3/1, 23/4 at Village - Vadavli, Ghodbunder road, Thane by M/s. Sai Pushp Enterprises (PRARAMBH V).

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on twelve representations and stated that the proposals were recommended by the Standing Committee in 49th meeting held on 13th June 2017 with conditions and mitigation measures imposed by the State Chief Wildlife Warden. One of the conditions

of the State Chief Wildlife Warden was that the project proponent shall deposit 2% of total cost of the project for wildlife conservation of Tungareswar Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining forests.

However the project proponents represented the board to deposit 1% of total cost of the project and in installments as recommended by the State Board for Wildlife. This condition was imposed by the State CWLW on the basis of the decision taken by the SBWL in its 8th meeting held on 20th Feb 2014. But the SBWL in its 3rd meeting held on 31th January 2018 changed its stand of imposing 2% on the project cost for wildlife conservation plan taken in meeting held on 20th Feb 2014 by imposing 1% of the project cost without giving any reason for this change in stand.

Dr H S Singh, Member stated that decision of the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 49th meeting for imposing the condition of payment of 2% of total cost of the project for wildlife conservation is well thought of and is the barest minimum and request of the project proponents should not be taken into consideration.

On being asked by the Secretary, EF &CC the State Chief Wildlife Warden stated that there is no specific reason to reduce the cost of wildlife conservation plan from 2% total cost of the project to 1% of total cost.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided that it will stick to its decision taken in its 49th meeting and that all the twelve project proponents should deposit 2% of total project cost as recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden of Maharashtra.

AGENDA ITEM No. 2

(ACTION TAKEN REPORT)

46.3.2 Judgement of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai dated 24-10-2017 in Appeal no. 30 of 2015(SZ) titled Bimal Gogoi & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Ors

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the Order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai bench and stated that the 1750 MW Demwe Lower Project, proposed to be constructed in the Lohit District of Arunachal Pradesh, is being executed jointly by Athena Energy Ventures and the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh. The Environment Clearance to the project was granted by the MoEF&CC in 2010 and the project site is 8.5 km away from the Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary. The Standing Committee of NBWL in its 23rd Meeting held on 14th October 2011 wherein it was decided that a site inspection be carried out by Dr Asad Rahmani, Member NBWL and Shri Pratap Singh, CCF(WL), Arunachal Pradesh. After site inspection, two different reports were submitted to the Standing Committee of NBWL. The matter was thereafter considered by the Standing Committee in its 24th meeting held on 13th December 2011. The IGF(WL) also stated that in the 46th meeting, it was decided by the Standing Committee that a Committee comprising of Prof R Sukumar, Member NBWL, one representative of WII and one representative of NTCA would visit the site and submit the detailed report to the Ministry within 30 days for further consideration. However, Dr R Sukumar informed through E-mail about his inability to conduct site inspection and requested to nominate another member for the site inspection.

The Standing Committee in its 47th meeting held on 25th January 2018 decided that the Director, GEER Foundation, Member NBWL, would replace Dr R Sukumar in the aforesaid Committee and requested it to complete site inspection and submit a detailed report to the Ministry within 30 days for further consideration. Committee visited the project site on 25th - 28th February 2018 and furnished the report. In the 48th meeting held on 27th March 2107, Shri R D Kamboj, Member mentioned that a comprehensive peer-reviewed study should be carried out on the hydrology and ecology of three seasons by a reputed and neutral scientific / technical organization(s) before according clearance. Further Dr H S Singh, Member, informed that the impact study of the project has not been carried by the User Agency and the State Government. In the 48th meeting held on 27th March 2107, the Standing Committee decided that the WII, Dehradun to carry out hydrology / ecology study and submit the report to the Ministry in three months. In 49th meeting of the Standing Committee on 13th June 2018, Dr V B Mathur, Member assured that the report would be submitted by 27th June 2018.

Dr Y V Jhala gave brief presentation on the findings of the Site Inspection Report and stated that the hydrological modelling done by WAPCOS is at a very coarse resolution and, with no access to the data, it is not possible to validate the conclusions arrived in their report. In light of this, it is difficult to justify that no inundation of chaporis and low line forests are likely to occur during peaking operations that may be detrimental to aquatic fauna and river biota. Therefore the peaking magnitude is to be determined and an in- depth study on the hydrological aspects is required to assess its impacts. It is understood from the current rapid survey that the daily flooding caused by peaking operations could potentially have the following impacts on aquatic and terrestrial fauna:

- (1) Possible inundation of grasslands and forested habitats in the Lohit river basin because of flooding caused due to peaking operations.
- (2) Possible loss of critical habitats e.g., Small River islands which are important for nesting of birds.
- (3) Due to daily flooding, if water currents are too strong, then it would affect the fishes with respect to their migration, survival of various life stages including eggs, larvae and fries. Strong currents on daily basis would also affect the movement and survival of endangered turtle species.
- (4) Change in the hydro-morphology of river due to daily flooding will also affect movement and survival of river dolphins and their major food species.

Also the EIA studies done earlier for this project limited themselves to a 10 km radius around the dam site i.e. only 10 km downstream from dam site and were therefore inadequate in documenting the biodiversity and the potential impacts of HEP. During the current survey, survey team recorded several critically endangered and endangered species (listed earlier) as well as wet grassland obligate species from the Lohit river basin and floodplains, many of which were not included in the previous assessment report (e.g. EIA report for Lower Demwe HEP 2009, WAPCOS 2011). Seasonal natural floods are an important regulatory factor in maintaining this river ecosystem and in turn, the survival of these species. Any alterations in the flow regime may result in its adverse impact on the associated biodiversity. Hence appropriate mitigation is required while construction the Lower Demwe Hydroelectric Power Plant. Also the threats to chaporis by illegal encroachment and resource extraction are detrimental to the rich biodiversity on these islands. The project's compensatory payment could be well used to rehabilitate communities from the chaporis and wean them to other livelihoods. A detailed study is therefore needed to provide specific sites and options.

During three consultative meetings with the project proponent (M/s. Athena Energy Ventures Pvt. Ltd.), WII team discussed a way ahead. Major impacts were likely to happen in the aquatic realm of the Lohit river ecosystem, due to the peaking mechanism required for the commercial viability of the power plant. WII team is currently not in a position to estimate the amount of damage this circadian flooding of the river would cause. The intensity of the flood and its impact in a region is directly dependent on (a) the topography of the rivers cape (river basin and surrounding Landscape) there, (b) the width of the channel and (C) the quantum of the water released at any one time. However, the currently available information on the topography and width of the river channel is not at the desired resolution, to permit an in- depth assessment of the magnitude of the impact of the quantum of water released during peaking operations. To generate this required information, mapping the rivers cape using Drone and LIDAR technology in collaboration with IIRS (Indian Institute of Remote Sensing/NERIST) is necessary.

Once detailed data on the high-resolution elevation model is available, services of Hydrologists and GIS experts will be availed to depict various scenarios resulting with different magnitudes of water released during peaking operations. Simultaneously, a team of aquatic/freshwater biologists will assess the biota associated with the riverscape and its vulnerability to various intensities of the daily periodic flooding. The combination of these two studies would help determine the maximum water that could be released from the dam with minimal impact on the biota and the river island ecosystem and other necessary mitigation measures to further minimize this impact. This study would take a minimum of 2 years of time. A proposal of the same along with the budget is enclosed with the report (Appendix I). The proponents of the Lower Demwe Hydro Electric Power Plant have given written undertaking that they shall abide the findings of this study, especially regarding the maximum amount of water to be released during peaking operations (Annexure XII).

In the light of the history of this dam site, wherein the submergence zone has been studied and an EIA was approved to give Environmental Clearance (corroborated by Hon'ble NGT), we feel that the creation/construction of the dam per se would not be critical in undermining the biodiversity values of the region. The submergence zone of the dam is a habitat which is available elsewhere within the region and is not critical for the conservation of any known threatened, endangered or critically endangered species' population. This hydroelectric project is 'Run of the River (ROR)' type water which is released. Hence, the amount of river flow quanta is not likely to be altered once the dam is filled and power generation is based on an inflow outflow regime. The filling of the reservoir should be done while maintaining the minimal water flow downstream so as to ensure least impact on riverscape fauna. Therefore, by adhering to the above conditions, water quantum downstream will not be altered and impacts on the biodiversity would be minimal.

It is also recommended to develop a monitoring mechanism by which the recommendations and guidelines provided from the study would be adhered to, in the form of remote sensors placed in the other competent authority, whenever daily flood levels exceed the maximum flood limits. To ensure that the associated linear infrastructure developed for the construction and maintenance of the HEP does not become a barrier to the occasional movement of large mammals like elephants, wild buffalo and tigers, appropriate mitigation measures in the form of wildlife passages (under and over passes) would need to be constructed.

As a consequence of the dam, the risk of having large amount of water-mass stored in a seismically active zone is obvious, and WII is not competent to assess the safeguards to taken in this regard, In case of dam collapse or breach due to a seismic activity or any other natural calamity, the impact on the biodiversity as well as human life downstream would be devastating.

Taking into account that construction of dam and associated infrastructures would require time (3 to 4 years), it would be prudent to consider the construction of the dam at this stage and subsequently operate it at natural levels of inflow and outflow to generate power. At the same time the proponents may be strictly restrained from the peaking operations and resulting flooding until the above-mentioned study provides appropriate guidelines to undertake the peaking operation I(if any) with minimal impact on the associate biota of river and river-island ecosystem. Accordingly, the NBWL-SC may consider permitting the construction of dam while controlling the minimum and maximum flow, which would be recommended after the outcomes of the proposed study become available (Appendix I). The cost of the 2 year study amounting to Rs. 1,84,92, 000 (Rupees One Crore Eighty- Four Lake Ninety- Two Thousand) should be borne by the project proponent. The proponent must also give an undertaking to the MoEF&CC in writing that they would abide the recommendations of this study and especially those modes in the context of peaking operations. All mitigation measures recommended in this study would also be implemented within the specified time period and for which, the proponent would provide the necessary funds.

After thorough discussions the Standing Committee while accepting WII report “*Rapid Ecological Assessment of Impacts of Lower Demwe Hydro-electric Project on wildlife values*” agreed to the following conclusion of the report

“In the light of the history of this dam site, wherein the submergence zone has been studied and an EIA was approved to give Environmental Clearance (corroborated by Hon’ble NGT), we feel that the creation/construction of the dam per se would not be critical in undermining the biodiversity values of the region. The submergence zone of the dam is a habitat which is available elsewhere within the region and is not critical for the conservation of any known threatened, endangered or critically endangered species’ population. This hydroelectric project is ‘Run of the River (ROR)’ type water which is released. Hence, the amount of river flow quanta is not likely to be altered once the dam is filled and power generation is based on an inflow outflow regime. The filling of the reservoir should be done while maintaining the minimal water flow downstream so as to ensure least impact on riverscape fauna. Therefore, by adhering to the above conditions, water quantum downstream will not be altered and impacts on the biodiversity would be minimal.”

The standing committee also accepted to following recommendations regarding the monitoring mechanism and impact mitigation measures.

“It is also recommended to develop a monitoring mechanism by which the recommendations and guidelines provided from the study would be adhered to, in the form of remote sensors placed in the riverbed at strategic locations that would send an alert signal to the Chief Wildlife Warden or any other competent authority, whenever daily flood levels exceed the maximum flood limits. To ensure that the associated linear infrastructure developed for the construction and maintenance of the HEP does not become a barrier to the occasional movement of large mammals like elephants, wild buffalo

and tigers, appropriate mitigation measures in the form of wildlife passages (under and over passes) would need to be constructed.”

The standing committee also accepted to recommendations of the report that Geospatial Analysis of Impacts of Lower Demwe Hydroelectric Project on the Riverine Ecosystems of Lohit Basin will have to be carried out to determine the maximum water that could be released from the dam with minimal impact of the biota and the river island ecosystems and to suggest other necessary mitigation measures to further minimize this impact.

The committee also noted that the proponents of the Lower Demwe Hydro Electric Power Plant have given written undertaking that they shall abide the findings of this study, especially regarding the maximum amount of water to be released during peaking operations.

The standing committee also accepted to following recommendations regarding permission for construction of Dam.

“Taking into account that construction of dam and associated infrastructures would require time (3 to 4 years), it would be prudent to consider the construction of the dam at this stage and subsequently operate it at natural levels of inflow and outflow to generate power. At the same time the proponents may be strictly restrained from the peaking operations and resulting flooding until the above-mentioned study provides appropriate guidelines to undertake the peaking operation (if any) with minimal impact on the associate biota of river and river-island ecosystem. Accordingly, the NBWL-SC may consider permitting the construction of dam while controlling the minimum and maximum flow, which would be recommended after the outcomes of the proposed study become available.

And, therefore, decided to recommend the proposal for construction of dam subject to the following conditions:

- (i) An undertaking or a legal binding instrument is signed by the project proponent to the effect that the project will be operated at its natural levels of inflows and outflows to generate power and under no circumstance will resort to peaking operation and resulting flooding until the study “Geospatial Analysis of Impacts of Lower Demwe Hydroelectric Project on the Riverine Ecosystems of Lohit Basin” provided appropriate guidelines to undertake the peaking operation (if any) with minimal impact on the associate biota of river and river-island ecosystem.
- (ii) The state government will permit the project proponent to start the work on the project only after study “Geospatial Analysis of Impacts of Lower Demwe Hydroelectric Project on the Riverine Ecosystems of Lohit Basin” is commissioned by the project proponent at the project cost.
- (iii) An undertaking shall be submitted or a legal binding instrument shall be signed by the project proponent to the effect that they shall abide the findings of study “Geospatial Analysis of Impacts of Lower Demwe Hydroelectric Project on the Riverine Ecosystems of Lohit Basin”, including those regarding the maximum amount of water to be released during peaking operations.

- (iv) An undertaking shall be submitted or a legal binding instrument shall be signed by the project proponent to the effect that they shall not stake claims for starting the peaking operation in the event of delay is submission of recommendations of the study “Geospatial Analysis of Impacts of Lower Demwe Hydroelectric Project on the Riverine Ecosystems of Lohit Basin”.
- (v) Before the start of dam construction work all the mitigation measures required to be taken during pre-construction and construction period shall be finalized by the project proponent in consultation with State Chief Wildlife Warden and Wildlife Institute of India and for taking up mitigation measures during post dam construction period an undertaking shall be submitted or a legal binding instrument shall be signed by the project proponent to the effect they will implement all mitigation measures recommended by the current study and by the study “Geospatial Analysis of Impacts of Lower Demwe Hydroelectric Project on the Riverine Ecosystems of Lohit Basin”
- (vi) The six monthly compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the CWLW.

48.5.4 Diversion of 595.64 ha of forestland in Karwar, Yellapura and Dharwad Division for the construction of New Broad Gauge Railway line of Hubballi - Ankola

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the diversion of cumulative forestland 595.64 ha (42.0 ha from Dharwad Elephant Corridor + 304.06 ha from Yellapura Elephant Corridor + 249.58 ha from Kanwar elephant Corridor) from three elephant corridors for the construction of new broad gauge railway line from Hubballi to Ankola. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the condition that the mitigation measures suggested by the IISc Bangalore must be strictly implemented. He also stated that it was mentioned in the Part IV of the proposal that the *post facto* approval of the project will be taken in the forthcoming meeting of the SBWL.

Further the IGF(WL) stated that the Site Inspection Committee of NTCA has not recommended the proposal as the proposed railway line from Hubballi to Ankola passes through Uttara Kannada district which has very forest cover and cuts across the Western Ghats, which are a biodiversity hotspot and a world heritage site. It also fragments the old migration path of India elephants. Out of the 6 tiger occupied landscapes of India, currently the Western Ghats landscape possesses best habitat connectivity and contiguity. The Tiger occupancy in the Western Gats landscape is highly dynamic and shows spatial and temporal variation. Moreover, the recent research has highlighted that future of tigers in India depends on conserving the habitat connectivity isolated tiger population of tiger reserves. The proposed railway line will be having significant negative impact on long term conservation of tigers and other mega herbivores in the Western Ghats landscape by fragmenting existing habitat connectivity and contiguity. In the 48th meeting held on 27th March 2017 the Standing Committee decided that a committee comprising of one representative of WII, one representative of NTCA and one person from the Wildlife Division would visit the site and submit the report to the Ministry within thirty days.

The DIGF(NTCA) stated that the Site Inspection Committee has not recommended the project on the grounds that the proposed railway line from Hubballi to Ankola passes through very forest cover

and cuts across the Western Ghats, which are a biodiversity hotspot and a world heritage site. He also stated that the proposed line fragments the old migration path of India elephants, and is one of the six tiger occupied landscapes of India and currently the Western Ghats landscape possesses best habitat connectivity and contiguity. The DIGF (NTCA) also pointed out that State Board for Wildlife not yet furnished their recommendations.

Dr H S Singh, Member stated that more often the state governments are sending the proposals for consideration of the standing committee of NBWL without the recommendations of the SBWL. He suggested that this tendency needs to be curbed.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to refer back the proposal to the State Government along with the reports of the NTCA and Site Inspection Committee with advise to get the issue examined by the SBWL and submit the recommendations of the SBWL. And also to inform the Ministry of Railways to pursue the matter with the State Board for Wildlife.

The Standing Committee also recommended that the MoEF&CC shall send an advisory to the state governments that they should not submit any proposal for consideration of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife without the recommendations of the SBWL. The proposals received by the MoEF&CC without recommendations of the SBWL will not be taken up by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife and shall be treated as pending at the state level.

42.4.1.15 Diversion of 96.65 ha (Reduced from 131.67 ha) in Muthinakoppa Minor Forest & Aramballi State Forest in Koppa Division for construction of a irrigation canal under the Bhadra Upper Project Package I, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Division 1, Gajanur Shivamogga, Karnataka

&

Diversion of 110.10 ha of forest land (reduced from 186.42 ha) in Bhadravathi Division for the construction of a lift irrigation canal under the Upper Bhadra Project Package II, (lifting of water from Bhadra Tiger Reserve at Ajjampura delivery Chamber) B R Project, Bhadravathi, Karnataka

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee and stated that the proposals were recommended by the Standing Committee in its 43rd meeting held on 27th June 2017 with one of the conditions of constructing closed conduit of 1.91 km passing within the boundaries of Bhadra Tiger Reserve imposed by the State CWLW and Site Inspection Committee. He also stated that the representation dated 11th June 2018 was received from the State Government that the construction of underground close conduit from Pump House to Bhadra Reservoir is technically impossible and requested to permit the construction of technically feasible 0.5 km of close conduit and 1.41 km of open canal.

Further IGF(WL) stated that the matter was referred to the NTCA by this Ministry's letter dated 18th July 2018. The NTCA furnished the reply to this Ministry's letter therein it was stated that the office of NTCA stands by the recommendations of the Site Inspection Committee only.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden and project proponent stated that the construction of close conduit of 1.91 km is not possible technically due to the non-availability of land slope and the presence of hard rocks. He also stated that the project proponent agreed to construct seven overpasses per every 200 m in the stretch of 1.41 km for the passage of wildlife.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the project with the conditions that

- (i) Permission for starting the work on the project shall be granted by the State Government only after acceptance of the justification, submitted by the State Government for non-feasibility of 1.91 km closed conduit, by the WII and NTCA and after finalization of the revised mitigation measures suggested by the State CWLW during the 50th meeting of SC-NBWL in consultation with WII and NTCA.
- (ii) The project proponent shall submit an undertaking to the effect that prescribed mitigation measures will be implemented by them at project cost.
- (iii) The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted to GoI by the State CWLW.
- (iv) The project proponent will comply with any other condition stipulated by the CWLW / State Government.

49.4.1.4 Construction of 1.7 km road from A B road to Girwai via Tilli Factory road in Son Bird Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee in its 49th meeting held on 13th June 2018 and suggested to request the State Government to clarify whether the proposed road is for the public utility or for the factory before taking a final decision on the matter. The State Government stated that the aforesaid project is for the public utility of Girwai village.

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

- (i) Permission for starting the work on the project shall be granted by the state government only when animal passage plan is prepared by the project proponent in consultation with State CWLW on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*.
- (ii) The project proponent will comply with all the conditions imposed by the State CWLW.
- (iii) 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 CWLW to GoI.

39.4.2.7 Proposal for stone mining lease area 4 ha (private land) in Khasra No.357 village Ghoora, Tehsil-Rajnagar, Dist. Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh. The mining area is 6.67 km away from Panna Tiger Reserve

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee on the proposal and mentioned that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee in its 39th, 40th and 41st meetings. The Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the condition that project proponent should ensure no damage to wildlife. The APCCF(WL), Madhya Pradesh mentioned that mining area is a private land and does not form part of any corridor. Further the IGF(WL) stated that the NTCA and the WII have rejected the proposal on the ground that the mining site located within the proposed landscape management plan (also the catchment area of Ken Betua Project) of Panna Tiger Reserve. The Secretary, MoEF&CC received representation on 30.10.2017 to reconsider the proposal from the project proponent. In the 48th meeting of Standing Committee held on 27th March 2017, Dr H S Singh, Member mentioned that no mining should be permitted in the additional area to be added to the Panna Tiger Reserve in lieu of the core area to be diverted for Ken-Betwa river linking project. The Standing Committee in its 48th meeting held on 27th March 2017 decided that the NTCA and the WII to verify the location and furnish the report to the Ministry within one month. During the 49th meeting of the Standing Committee held on 13th June 2018, the DIGF(NTCA) informed that the Site Inspection Committee has inspected the project site and would submit the report in a few days.

The NTCA has recommended the proposal with the following mitigations measures:

1. Since the mines is already operational & is located outside proposed eco-sensitive zone, status quo may be maintained till the current lease period is over i.e., 2020 subject to compliance of all regulations imposed while granting permission by the State Government, including adequate funds to the reserve management and local communities to mitigate the impacts already caused by the mines.
2. Given that the landscape value is critical & important due to increasing tiger population *vis- a –vis* tiger dispersal and habitat loss due to Ken – Betwa River Inter Link Project, the mine should submit closure and reclamation plans, so that further damage is not continued.
3. A proposal of mine should be considered only after the Greater Panna Landscape Management Plan has been prepared and endorsed by the competent authorities as one of important mitigation condition approved by Standing Committee of NBWL in the 39th meeting for Ken-Betwa Project. Meanwhile, no new mine should be permitted in the landscape area.
4. The State Government in consultation with NTCA should assess the feasibility of the mines already in operation in the vicinity of the present mine site *vis-a-vis* its impact on the tiger dispersal, corridor etc & should ensure that the mines do not operate without the necessary Wildlife & Environment clearances.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the project with the conditions and mitigation measures imposed by Chief Wildlife Warden and the NTCA. The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

46.3.1 Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, Madurai bench dated 22.08.2017 in Writ Petition (MD) No. 7349/2016 and Writ Petition (MD) No. 6174 of 2016 regarding stone quarries operating near Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, Madurai bench and stated that the District Collector, Theni District of Tamil Nadu forwarded the representations of the petitioners to the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife. The Hon'ble High Court directed the Standing Committee to pass suitable orders within a period of four weeks and intimate decision to the petitioners. He mentioned that the proposal involves the extension of mining lease of the petitioners (two associations by name Sangili Karadu Kalludaikkum Mahalir Nala Sangam and K K Patty Kalludaikkum Mahalir Nala Sangam) for stone quarry in 2.50 ha, each in Kamayagoundapatty village, Uthamapalayam Taluk, Theni District. The mines are located within 5 km from the boundary of Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary and require the recommendation of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife as part of Environmental Clearance.

Further IGF(WL) stated that the issue was considered by the Standing Committee in its 46th meeting held on 8th December 2017. The IGF(WL) also stated that this Ministry's letters vide dated 17.10.2017, 04.01.2018 and 08.02.2018, has requested the State Chief Wildlife Warden to furnish the comments.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden stated that the aforesaid proposal has not been submitted by the project proponent in the prescribed format. Further he also stated that the proposal would be placed in the next meeting of the State Board for Wildlife Going to be held soon.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to defer the discussion on the proposal.

47.3.1 Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras dated 27-10-2017 in Writ Petition nos. 26106 to 26108 of 2017 title A. Gopinath vs. Union of India & Ors, Gopinath Granite Quarry operating near Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras and mentioned that the said Court has directed the Secretary, MoEF&CC to consider the application of the petitioner dated 12.01.2016 for seeking Wildlife Clearance on merits and in accordance with law within a period of eight weeks and intimate decision to the petitioners. He also stated that the granite quarries are located within 10 km deemed ESZ from the boundary of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Hosur Division Krishnagiri District of Tamil Nadu and require the recommendation of the Standing Committee of NBWL as part of Environment Clearance. The online application of the petitioner seeking Wildlife Clearance from the Standing Committee of NBWL dated 12.01.2016 has been pending at the State level.

Further the IGF(WL) stated that this Ministry's letters vide dated 24.11.2017, 18.12.2017, 04.01.2018 and 08.02.2018 requested the State Chief Wildlife Warden to furnish the comments in Part IV, however so far no response has been received.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden stated that the aforesaid proposal has not been submitted by the project proponent in the prescribed format. Further he stated that the proposal would be placed in the next meeting of the State Board for Wildlife Going to be held soon.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to defer the discussion on the proposal.

- 49.4.2.15(vi) Proposal for multi-colour granite S.No.511/A over an area of 2.115 ha situated in Karandapalli village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Surya Mining Agencies**
- 49.4.2.15(vii) Proposal for multi granite over an area of 1.00 ha of patta land falling in S.No.623/1(P) & 623/2(P) situated in Agalakottai village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Loganathan**
- 49.4.2.15(viii) Proposal for block granite over an area of 1.215 ha falling in S.No.322/1(Part) situated in Agalakottai village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited**
- 49.4.2.15(ix) Proposal for block granite over an area at of 1.075 ha falling in S.No.511/1 situated in Agalakottai village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Karnataka State N M granites Private Limited**
- 49.4.2.15(xvi) Proposal for granite quarry located in patta land S.F.No.59/2B, 59/3A (Part), 59/3B, 60/2A & 60/3A over an area of 3.445 ha situated in Karanadapalli village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Surya Mining Services**

- 49.4.2.17(i) Proposal for rough stone quarry over an area of 1.785 ha of S.No. 794/3 located at Padmanagamangalam village, Srivaikuntam Taluk, Thoothukudi District by K Kathirkamaraj**
- 49.4.2.17(ii) Proposal for rough stone quarry over an area of 1.790 ha of S.No.794/1 located at Padmanagamangalam village, Srivaikuntam Taluk, Thoothukudi District by K. Kathirkamaraj**
- 49.4.2.17(v) Proposal for establishment of rough stone quarry over an area of 1.84 ha of S.No. 739/1 located at Padmanagamangalam village, Srivaikuntam Taluk, Thoothukudi District by Raja Jeba Doss**

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the eight proposals were considered by the Standing Committee in its 49th meeting held on 13th June 2018 and decided to request the State Government to verify the project locations *vis-a-vis* the proposed ESZ of North Cauvery Wildlife / Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary and furnish the report to the Ministry for further consideration.

The State Government vide its letter dated 30/07/2018 stated that the project sites falls away from the boundary of proposed ESZs of North Cauvery Wildlife / Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposals along with the conditions and mitigation measures of the State Chief Wildlife Warden and subject to the compliance of Supreme Court order dated 04.08.2006 in Writ Petition no. 202/1995 regarding prohibition of mining within one km of the Protected Areas.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

49.4.2.19 Proposal for development of Industrial Estate in Krishnagiri District by GMR Krishnagiri SEZ Ltd located at 0.58 km from the North Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal for development of industrial estate was considered by the Standing Committee in its 49th meeting held on 13th June 2018 and decided to request the State Government to verify the project locations *vis-a-vis* the proposed ESZ of North Cauvery Wildlife and furnish the report to the Ministry for further consideration.

The State Government vide its letter dated 30/07/2018 stated that the project sites falls away from the boundary of proposed ESZs of North Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposals along with the conditions and mitigation measures of the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

AGENDA ITEM No. 3

50.3.1 AGENDA ITEMS OF ANDHRA PRADESH

50.3.1.1 Diversion of 6.34 ha of forestland in Kancherlamoram RF & Kanchelamoram Extn RF of Proddatur (WL) Division for erection of 220 KV DC line from 400 KV Talamanchipatnam SS to 220 KV SS Porumamilla

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 6.34 ha of forestland from Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve for the erection of 220 KV DC transmission line from 400 KV Talamanchipatnam SS to 220 KV SS Porumamilla. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) Wildlife Mitigation Plan is proposed with an amount of Rs.100 lakh for habitat improvement, protection, prevention of man-animal conflict and publicity extension wildlife awareness activities in the tiger corridor area of Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve and in the vicinity of Sri Lankamalleswara WLS.

- (2) The User Agency shall deposit the money into Biodiversity Conservation Society of Andhra Pradesh Account.
- (3) Erection of sign boards by the User Agency to create awareness of wildlife conservation.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 13/05/2018.

The NTCA has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

Mandatory safeguards during designing the transmission line

1. All the existing parallel power lines should be merged into a single installation. Insulated cables should be used on the proposed transmission line passing through the forest lands and important wildlife areas across its entire length in between Talamanchipatnam and Porumamilla; so as to avoid hindrance to avifauna and other arboreal species.
2. As assessment of impact of the windmills and its associated power lines on the critically endangered Jerdon's Courser whose only global population resides in this region is required, if not already done. Ecological impacts of the wind mills coming near Porumamilla town should be evaluated by an independent agency, preferably the BNHS since they have long-term information of the Jerdon's Courser and other avifauna in the region. Laying of the proposed transmission line should be initiated only after that. Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh State should evaluate and monitor this.
3. All power lines within 5 km of forest and scrub patches and important wildlife areas across its entire length in between Talamanchipatnam and Porumamilla will be marked with bird diverters (with solar powered night flashers) spaced at 10m intervals⁸ (Figure 3).
4. In areas without insulated cable, APTRANSCO shall maintain >1.5 m spacing (larger than the wrist-to-wrist or head-to-foot distance of a bird) between energized components and grounded hardware^{7,8}.
5. In compliance with MoEFCC's guidelines, no clearance of vegetation shall be allowed for open areas with sparse vegetation (such as scrublands, grasslands, wetlands etc.). A 5.8 m vertical clearance above ground, 2.5 m vertical clearance from the vegetation and 1.2 m horizontal clearance from the vegetation could be permitted in other areas of the transmission line. These dimensions are based on clearance requirements for powerlines under Rules 77, 79 and 80, read with Rule 82A(3) in the Indian Electricity Rules 1956 (as amended up to 25 November 2000) and local forest officials should monitor strict implementation of this on ground.
6. Width of the right of the way for the transmission line on forest land should not be over 35 m (*vide* MoEFCC Guidelines). The alignment of the powerline should be made such that minimum numbers of trees are felled. Any felling/pollarding/pruning of trees for allowing electrical clearance/maintenance will be done with the permission of the local DFO. Only those trees that are of sufficient height to compromise the requirements of minimal vertical and horizontal clearance from the conductor wires at maximum sag point should be lopped.
7. As far as possible vegetation clearing along the stretches of transmission corridor passing through forested areas may be minimized or avoided by increasing the height of tower structures to

maintain safe vertical clearance over natural vegetation to prevent disruption of vegetation or forest continuity.

8. The user agency should adhere to the guidelines issued by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its judgement in Janajagarithi Samiti versus Union of India and Others (Appeal No.10 of 2012) related to transmission line passing through the forest in Western Ghats [Annexure 1].
9. Forest Clearance Division of MoEFCC in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority had also issued guidelines pertaining to transmission lines passing through the forests (*vide* F.No.7-25/2012-FC dated 5th May, 2014). The user agency should follow this guideline while constructing the powerline [Annexure 2].
10. Periodic clearing of vegetation along the powerline may bring up invasive species. The plantation of native, palatable species should be actively promoted by the user agency in collaboration with the Forest Department below the powerline. This will not only prevent growth of invasive unpalatable species like but also will provide excellent food for wild ungulates in form of its leaves and fruits.
11. APTRANSCO should also mitigate the existing transmission line (765 KV and 400 KV) by putting insulated cables, marking with reflectors wherever they are passing through forest lands and important wildlife areas.

Mandatory safeguards during construction phase

- (a) No construction/maintenance work shall be permitted between 6 PM to 6 AM. Labor camps should be at least 1 km away from the boundaries of forest land along the entire length of the proposed transmission line.
- (b) No construction material (including soil, stones etc.) should be collected from the forest. The topsoil to a depth of 30 cm should be first gathered, piled aside and covered with a tarpaulin or suitable other material. The topsoil should be re-spread as early as possible over the disturbed or excavated area after completion of work to a depth of 30 cm. Construction debris should not be dumped inside the forest areas and they should be transported by the user agency to suitable dumping sites outside the forest.
- (c) In compliance with MoEFCCs guidelines, construction of new approach/access route will require prior approval under Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

Post-construction mandatory safeguards

- (d) The user agency shall deposit 5% of the total project cost (Rs.9,000 lakhs) to Biodiversity Society of Andhra Pradesh (BIOSAP). Andhra Pradesh Forest Department should utilize this money for eco-restoration, prey augmentation, reducing public dependence on forests and promoting traditional local livelihoods in the corridor landscape.
- (e) The user agency may decommission other power transmission and distribution facilities; preferably in the area or in other forested parts of the state; which have become obsolete, defunct or damaged. Decommissioning activities may include demolition and removal of the installed infrastructure (e.g., transmission towers, substations, aboveground and underground utilities and access/approach road decommissioning) and reclamation of the project site, including ground stabilization and re-vegetation with native species typical to the natural vegetation of the area. Obsolete lines and infrastructure, and powerlines that require extensive and costly annual clearing of vegetation, shall be prioritized for decommissioning.

- (f) Andhra Pradesh Forest Department should consider future proposal on any linear infrastructure in this corridor landscape very carefully since further loss of habitat might constrict the pinch points and make the corridor nonfunctional.
- (g) Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh State should constitute a monitoring committee comprising of members from local forest officials, MoEFCC and NTCA regional offices and user agency to oversee the implementation of the project in adherence to the mitigation measures suggested herein and/or by state forest department.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden and the NTCA.

In addition to the condition imposed by the state CWLW and NTCA the project proponent shall finalize the mitigation measures in consultation with the State CWLW on the basis of WII guidelines named “*Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*” prior to start of the work of the project and the mitigation measures so finalized shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.1.2 Diversion of 27.744 ha forestland in Kancherlamorum RF, Compt No.156 of Gangayapalli Beat Range and in Kancherlamoram Extn R.F. Compt No.265 & 266 of Jangamrajupalli Beat of Badvel Range for erecting of 765 KV double circuit transmission line from Chilakaluripeta to Kadapa

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 27.744 ha of forestland from Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve for the erection of 765 KV double circuit transmission line from Chilakaluripeta to Kadapa. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) Wildlife Mitigation Plan is proposed with an amount of Rs.3.00 crore for habitat improvement, protection, prevention of man-animal conflict and publicity extension wildlife awareness activities in the tiger corridor area of Nagarjunasagar – Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) and in the vicinity of Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary
- (2) The User Agency shall deposit the money into Biodiversity Conservation Society of Andhra Pradesh Account.
- (3) Erection of sign boards by the User Agency to create awareness of wildlife conservation.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 13/05/2018.

The NTCA has recommended the proposal with the following conditions and mitigation measures

1. The vegetation observed at the proposed diversion site is mainly of scrub jungle type. The user agency should not undertake too much vegetation clearing under the transmission lines since the dispersing wildlife may start avoiding the cleared area due to excessive clearing/interventions.
2. Further, considering the factors like strategic location of the Sanctuary, presence of IBA and other water bodies in the adjoining landscape, there are high chances of critically endangered bird species like Jordon's Courser and other migratory birds may collide with high power transmission lines. In order to prevent the instances of collision of critically endangered Jordon's Courser and migratory birds with transmission lines, it is suggested the user agency should sue line marker devices along the entire length of transmission line to improve the visibility of earth wires. These marker devices available in a variety of color and are visible to birds from a long distance. The different types of marker devices available are spheres, swinging plates, spiral vibration dampers, strips, flight diverters, bird flappers, ribbons, tapes, flags and crossed bands.
3. Further, it is suggested the line markers should be as large as possible to enhance their visibility. The spacing/distance between the line markers should not be more than 5 to 10 meter. The marker color selection should be such that it contrasts with the background color.
4. These bird collision reducing interventions may be proposed for all transmission line projects (even outside the PA/forest areas) of Andhra Pradesh.
5. Work should be finished within specified time of the day (9 AM – 5PM) and no camping of labors inside Reserve Forest /WLS beyond this time frame should be allowed. Local beat officer(s) and forester(s) should be made responsible for monitoring the power transmission tower & cable work strictly on daily basis and report the progress to the District Forest Officer.
6. As prescribed by the chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh, the agency shall deposit the funds required for implementation of wildlife Mitigation Plan with the Biodiversity Conservation Society for Andhra Pradesh (BIOSAP). Further, the user agency shall also abide by other terms & conditions prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh and other competent authorities.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden and the NTCA.

In addition to the condition imposed by the state CWLW and NTCA the project proponent shall finalize the mitigation measures in consultation with state CWLW on the basis of WII guidelines named "Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife" prior to start of the work of the project and the mitigation measures so finalised shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.2 AGENDA ITEMS OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

50.3.2.1 Diversion of 2.12 ha of forestland situated within Sessa Orchid Sanctuary for Army Transit Camp and Convoy Ground

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 2.12 ha of forestland from Sessa Orchid Sanctuary for the construction of army transit camp and convoy ground.

The area is required by the Indian Army for administration and operation purposes. The area is already in possession of the army with effect from 18th January 1964 and being used since then. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal without imposing conditions.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its 2nd meeting held on 26/04/ 2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal. The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.2.2 Diversion of 3.07 ha of forestland for the construction of Roing – Hunli Road (Green Field Alignamnet) section km 24.64 to km 47.00 and km 62.97 to km 74.01 falling within draft ESZ of Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 3.07 ha of forestland for the construction of road from Roing to Hunli in the draft notified ESZ of Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) Construction of speed breakers in vulnerable places especially in wildlife corridors wherever necessary.
- (2) Erection of glow sign boards / signage at regular intervals as may be required.
- (3) Preparation of Wildlife Conservation Plan and its implementation at project cost.
- (4) No use of pressure horn.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its 2nd meeting held on 26/04/ 2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

In addition to the condition imposed by the state CWLW the project proponent shall finalise the mitigation measures and animal passage plan in consultation with state CWLW on the basis of WII guidelines named “Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife” prior to start of the work of the project and the mitigation measures / animal passage plan so finalised shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.3 AGENDA ITEMS OF ASSAM

50.3.3.1 Proposal for diversion of 208.807 ha of forestland for construction of 400 KV (Quad) Jigmelling – Alipurduar transmission line

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 208.807 ha of forestland from Manas Tiger Reserve for the erection of 400 KV transmission line from Jigmelling to Alipurduar. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) Towers shall be fenced with elephant proof fence maintained properly
- (2) The conductors shall be sufficiently high to avoid chances of any accident due to sagging of conductors and such guidelines in this regard.
- (3) The user agency shall maintain and monitor the line passing through the tiger reserve area regularly jointly with the Forest Department and incur such expenditures as and when required.
- (4) Necessary retrofitting measures as and when required in the interest of wild animal movement and protection shall be done by the user agency in future.
- (5) The user agency shall provide sufficient funds to the Wildlife Department as per the guidelines from NBWL.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its 10th meeting held on 22/02/ 2018.

The NTCA recommended the proposal with following conditions:

1. Since the proposed line is a High Voltage Transmission line, it is recommended that the stretch from Tower No. 4 to 6 having dense forest should be fenced around to prevent wild elephants from coming in contact with Towers. In the above stretch, the conductors should be erected at sufficient height to avoid chances of any accident due to sagging. The Power Grid Corporation shall maintain the line after commissioning to avoid any accident to specially the wild elephants moving through the areas.
2. Insulated cables should be used in the stretch of proposed transmission line passing through the forest and important wildlife areas across its entire length. All power lines within 5 km of forest and scrub patches and important wildlife areas across its entire length will be marked with bird diverters (with solar powered night flashers) spaced at 10 m intervals.
3. In areas without insulated cable, Power Grid shall maintain > 1.5m spacing (larger than wrist-to-wrist or head-to- foot distance of a bird) between energized components and grounded hardware. In compliance with MOEFCC,s guidelines, no clearance of vegetation shall be allowed for open areas with sparse vegetation (such as scrublands, grasslands, wetlands, wetlands etc.), A 5.8 m vertical clearance areas of the transmission and 1.2 m horizontal clearance from the vegetation could be permitted in other areas of the transmission line. These dimensions area based on clearance requirements for power lines under Rules 77,79, and 80 read with Rule 82 A (3) in the Indian electricity Rules 1956 (as amended up to 20 November 2000) and local forest officials should monitor strict implementation of this on ground.

4. The width of the right of way for the transmission line on forest land should not be over 35 m. The alignment of the Power line should be made such that minimum numbers of trees are felled. Any felling/ pollarding/ pruning of trees for allowing electrical clearance/ maintenance will be done with the permission of the local DFO. Only those trees that are of sufficient height to compromise the requirements of minimal vertical and horizontal clearance from the conductor wires at maximum sag point should be lopped.
5. The user agency should adhere to the guidelines issued by Hon'ble National Green tribunal in its judgments in Janajagarithi Samiti versus Union of India and Others (Appeal No.10 of 2012) related to transmission line passing through the forest in Western Ghats. Forest Clearance Division, MoEF&CC in consultation with Central Electricity Authority had also issued guidelines pertaining to transmission lines passing through the forests. The User agency should follow these guidelines while construction the Power line.
6. Periodic clearing of vegetation along the power line may bring up invasive species. The plantation of native, palatable species should be actively promoted by the user agency in collaboration with the Forest Department below the Power line. This will not only prevent growth of invasive unpalatable species like but also will provide excellent forage for wild ungulates in from of its leaves and fruits. No construction/ maintenance work shall be permitted between 6 PM to 7 AM. Labour camps should be at least 1 km away from the boundaries of forest land along the entire of the proposed transmission line. In compliance with MoEFCC's guidelines, construction of new approach/ access route will require prior approval under Forest Conservation Act, 1980.
7. The user agency shall deposit 5% of the total project cost to the Manas Tiger Reserve Management which should utilize this money for eco- restoration, prey augmentation, reducing public dependence on forests and promoting traditional local livelihoods in the landscape. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam should constitute a monitoring committee comprising of members from local forest officials, MoEF &CC and NTCA regional office and user agency to oversee the implementation of the project in adherence to the mitigation measures suggested herein and / or by State Forest Department.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden and the NTCA.

In addition to the condition imposed by the state CWLW the project proponent shall finalize the mitigation measures in consultation with state CWLW on the basis of WII guidelines named "Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife" prior to start of the work of the project and the mitigation measures so finalized shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.4 AGENDA ITEMS OF DELHI

50.3.4.1 Construction of CBI Residential Complex

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the construction of CBI residential complex in the ESZ of Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the subject to deposit of 5% of project fund for soil moisture conservation works and improvement of wildlife habitat in the sanctuary in larger interest of wildlife habitat conservation. The area falling under ridge / morphological ridge of 0.50 ha should be brought under dense plantation of indigenous species in supervision of the Department of Forest & wildlife, Government of NCT of Delhi by a professional agency / group to avoid noise and air pollution and maintenance of water table. No soil / Badarpur excavation is permitted in ridge / morphological ridge area contiguous to the project site. Curtains / PVC rolls should be raised to restrict the speed of dust pollution in the surroundings.

The matter was before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and CEC was asked by the court to submit their report. CEC in its report dated 02.08.2018 had recommended for the construction of CBI residential complex. Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 29.08.2018 in writ petition no. 202/1995 has accepted the recommendations of CEC.

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

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.5 AGENDA ITEMS OF JHARKHAND

50.3.5.1 Construction of Koderma detour (PPP Mode) km 148.210 to km 157.500 in Hazaribagh District under Dankuni to Sonnagar Section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor Project

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 82.8 ha of forestland from Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary for the construction of Koderma detour km 148.210 to km 157.500 in Hazaribagh District. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) Sufficient number of under / over passes shall be constructed as per the site requirement at regular intervals in complete stretch of sanctuary area to facilitate the movement of wildlife across the track.
- (2) Water courses inside the sanctuary shall not be disturbed.
- (3) Other suitable mitigation measures may be provided based on the impact assessment study of WII
- (4) Fund for the site specific wildlife management plan shall be provided by user agency.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 23/05/2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

However, prior to granting permission by the State Government for starting the work of project a detailed mitigation plan/ animal passage plan as suggested by the state CWLW shall be prepared, on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*, by the project proponent in consultation with state CWLW and same shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.6 AGENDA ITEMS OF KARNATAKA

50.3.6.1 Re-notifying the boundaries of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary without reducing the area and extent

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the re-notification / rationalization of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary with an area of 395.608 sq.km excluding ~300 sq.km from the inadvertent area of 695.608 sq.km. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal without imposing conditions.

On being asked to explain the justification for rationalization of the wildlife sanctuary boundaries the representative of the state CWLW stated that an area of more than 300 Sq Km comprising of townships, villages and agricultural lands was included inadvertently in the notification of the sanctuary in 1974 and therefore the state government has requested to exclude these area from WLS.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 31/08/2016.

Dr H S Singh, Member stated that there should be a committee for the boundary alteration to examine the issues of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal in principle subject to the conditions that the State Government will submit the draft notification to the MoEF&CC clearly specifying the revised boundaries prepared by the committee constituted by the State Government for the alteration of boundaries giving the justification for addition or deletion of the area.

50.3.7 AGENDA ITEMS OF MADHYA PRADESH

50.3.7.1 Construction of Bineka to Borpani 8.55 km cement concrete road in Ratapni Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 5.6625 ha of forestland from Ratapni Wildlife Sanctuary for the construction and upgradation of cement concrete road of 8.55 km from Bineka to Borpani. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the conditions of making bridge / underpasses, speed breakers, caution marks, signboard by the user agency, maximum speed limit in the PA for

wildlife protection as mentioned by the PA in-charge officer and all the construction material will be brought from outside the sanctuary.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden stated that 5% of the proportionate cost of the project will be deposited by the User Agency for wildlife conservation and mitigation works of Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its 15th meeting held on 10/07/2017.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

However, prior to granting permission by the state government for starting the work of project a detailed mitigation plan / animal passage plan as recommended by the state CWLW shall be prepared, on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*, by the project proponent in consultation with state CWLW and same shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.7.2 Construction of Gaganwada to Kertoli 5.3 km road in Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 3.975 ha of forestland from Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary for the construction and upgradation of cement concrete road of 5.3 km from Gaganwada to Kertoli. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the conditions of making bridge / underpasses, speed breakers, caution marks, signboard by the user agency, maximum speed limit in the PA for wildlife protection as mentioned by the PA in-charge officer and all the construction material will be brought from outside the sanctuary.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden stated that 5% of the proportionate cost of the project will be deposited by the User Agency for wildlife conservation and mitigation works of Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its 15th meeting held on 10/07/2017.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

However, prior to granting permission by the state government for starting the work of project a detailed mitigation plan / animal passage plan as suggested by the state CWLW shall be prepared, on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*, by the project proponent in consultation with state CWLW and same shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.8 AGENDA ITEMS OF MAHARASHTRA

50.3.8.1 Proposal for the construction of Nagpur – Mumbai Super Expressway Package-II, District Thane (Konkan Revenue Division) border by MSRDC

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the construction of expressway from Nagpur to Mumbai, District Thane (Konkan Revenue Division) falling outside of Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) In the deemed ESZ, the project authority shall put signages mentioning the prohibition on uses of horns.
- (2) Adequate number of underpasses for the animals shall be provided in the forest area in consultation with the forest Department and Wildlife Wing.
- (3) As decided in the 8th meeting of wildlife held on 20th February 2014 the project proponent shall deposit 2% of the total cost of the project for wildlife conservation measures in Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining forests.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 31/01/2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

However, prior to granting permission by the state government for starting the work of project a detailed mitigation plan / animal passage plan as recommended by the state CWLW shall be prepared, on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*, by the project proponent in consultation with state CWLW and same shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.8.2 Proposal for the construction of Nagpur – Mumbai Super Expressway Package-II, District Washim (Amravati Revenue Division) border by MSRDC

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the construction of super expressway from Nagpur to Mumbai, District Washim (Amravati Revenue Division) falling outside of Katepurna Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) In the deemed ESZ, the project authority shall put signages mentioning the prohibition on uses of horns.
- (2) The proposed project would be fenced from both sides and hence there will be no danger to wildlife because of movement of vehicles.
- (3) Underpasses shall be constructed at the places suggested by the Field Director, Melghat Tiger Reserve in consultation with the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- (4) As decided in the 8th meeting of wildlife held on 20th February 2014 the project proponent shall deposit 2% of the cost of the 29.60 km of the proposed project which passes through the deemed ESZ should be deposited with the Melghat Tiger Conservation Foundation for the Habitat Improvement of the Katepurna Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining forests.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 31/01/2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

However, prior to granting permission by the state government for starting the work of project a detailed mitigation plan / animal passage plan as recommended by the state CWLW shall be prepared, on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*, by the project proponent in consultation with state CWLW and same shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.8.3 Proposal for the construction of Nagpur – Mumbai Super Expressway Package-II, District Wardha / Amravati border by MSRDC

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the construction of super expressway from Nagpur to Mumbai, District Wardha / Amravati falling outside of Karanja – Sohul Black-Buck Sanctuary. He added that the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) Underpasses shall be constructed at the places suggested by the Forest Department to facilitate movement of wild animals, besides the existing minor bridges, major bridges, culverts, etc.
- (2) As decided in the 8th meeting of wildlife held on 20th February 2014 the project proponent shall deposit 2% of the cost of the 29.15 km of the proposed project which passes through the deemed ESZ should be deposited with the Melghat Tiger Conservation Foundation for the Habitat Improvement of the Karanja –Sohul Black – Buck Sanctuary and adjoining forests.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 31/01/2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

However, prior to granting permission by the state government for starting the work of project a detailed mitigation plan/ animal passage plan as recommended by the state CWLW shall be prepared, on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*, by the project proponent in consultation with state CWLW and same shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.8.3 Proposal of commercial and residential project by Viva holdings is situated on plot bearing New Survey no.54, 62, 63, 78 to 83 & 192, 193 at village More & Virar, Tal. Vasai, Dist. Palghar, Maharashtra

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project is for the construction of residential and commercial complexes in the private land located at 5.50 km away from the boundary of proposed ESZ of Tungareswar Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) The proponent assures and abides to comply with the conditions laid down by MoEF for Environmental Clearance.
- (2) Natural growing trees which may be earmarked for retention during EIA exercise of wildlife species like Wad (*Ficus benghalensis*), Pair, Mango, Karanj & other fruit bearing trees shall be retained from list of the trees enumerated in EIA report as submitted by project proponent.
- (3) The project on the condition that excavated material at the time of construction will not be thrown in sea, bay of sea and natural drainage.
- (4) The project proponent will provide Rs.2% of the project cost (i.e. Rs.320.00 Crore) to be deposited with Chief Conservator of Forest & Director, Sanjay Gandhi NP, Borivali for habitat development, protection and conservation of Sanjay Gandhi NP, Borivali and Tungareashwar Wildlife Sanctuary in accordance with the approved management plan.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 05/04/2016.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife as it is outside the proposed ESZ of Tungareswar Wildlife Sanctuary. Further the Standing Committee reiterated that the project proponents should deposit 2% of total project cost for wildlife conservation of Tungareswar Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining forests.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.9 AGENDA ITEMS OF MANIPUR

50.3.9.1 Construction and up-gradation of existing Ukhrul – Tolloi Tadubi Section of NH-102 A (115 km) of districts Ukhrul and Senapati

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 26.154 ha of forestland inside the deemed ESZ of Shirui National Park, located at 5.58 km distance from the boundary of the Shirui National Park for construction and up-gradation of existing road Ukhrul – Tollo – Tadubi Section of NH-102 A (115 km) of districts Ukhrul and Senapati. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden recommended proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) The status of the sanctuary shall remain unchanged.
- (2) Compensatory of afforestation shall be taken up in degraded forests as proposed by DFO, Eastern Forest Division, Ukhrul with 10 years maintenance preferably in Eastern Forest Division, Ukhrul at the cost to be borne by the user agency.
- (3) As the proposed area falls within the ESZ, the user agency shall pay the NPV which shall be the amount fixed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and worked out by the DFO / Eastern Forest Division, Ukhrul based on the forest type, eco-class and site quality.
- (4) To mitigate the adverse impact of the project, an impact mitigation and wildlife management plan has been proposed at cost of Rs. 204.02 lakh. The cost will be borne by the user agency.
- (5) Avenue plantation preferably with local species along the national highway including the raising of nursery, creation of green belt between the national park and the highway and on the road median shall be taken up at the cost be borne by the user agency in consultation with the DFO / Wildlife or DFO / Eastern Forest Division.
- (6) (a) The user agency shall bear the cost of logging and transportation of the felled trees as per estimates of DFO/Eastern Forest Division and DFO/Wildlife. Bare minimum of number of trees which are strictly essential, will be felled for the execution of the project under strict supervision of DFO/Eastern Forest Division and DFO/Wildlife; (b) the felled trees shall be distributed to forest bonafide villagers of the proposed areas in consultation with DFO/ Eastern Forest Division and DFO/Wildlife in the manner as provided u/s 29 Of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (7) All the non-timber forest produces (NTEPs) removed during execution of the project shall be made available to the local people for their bonafide uses on the equitable basis.
- (8) At least 6 (six) corridors for the movement of wildlife of minimum 6m width are to be provided by the user agency. The corridors shall be well demarcated on the highway by the user agency with caution signages.
- (9) The user agency shall not take any such activity which contravenes wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 or rules made therein.
- (10) Speed breakers near corridors, turnings and blind turnings shall be provided at on the highway. Speed breakers or series of smaller speed breakers at a distance of every 2 (two) km in between particularly near corridors as per the specifications of WII, Dehradun.
- (11) Caution sign boards warnings wildlife crossings shall be installed by the user agency at all necessary points along the highways in consultation with DFO/Wildlife.
- (12) Since the terrain is hilly with loose soil texture, it is necessary to undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures to make slopes stable, check soil erosion and landslides; (b) the user agency shall make necessary provisions in their project cost and construct retaining walls, breast

walls, Gabion structures, etc. at all necessary locations (both hill side and valley side) in consultation with CRRI (Central Road Research Institute) and the State Forest Department.

- (13) The user agency shall also construct storm drains all along the proposed roads with culverts at appropriate locations at their cost. The user agency shall make necessary provisions in their project cost accordingly. They shall not take up such construction, which diverts, stops or enhances flow of the water into or outside of the national park.
- (14) Cost for demarcation of the diverted forestland and installation of boundary pillars shall be borne by the user agency.
- (15) The user agency shall ensure that there is no damage to surrounding forests, environment, wildlife, natural resources like water bodies and other public properties.
- (16) The user agency and the district administration will ensure that no resettlement takes place on forestland which would eventually results in encroachment,
- (17) Heavy machines and explosives shall not be used except under unavoidable circumstances and with the prior permissions on the DFO/Wildlife or DFO/Eastern Forest Division.
- (18) The user agency shall supply fuel wood, preferably alternate fuel to the laborers working at the site to avoid damage / felling of the trees. No camp-fires or pitching of tents for construction staff or engineers shall be allowed.
- (19) The muck / debris generated in the earth cutting shall be disposed off at the designated sites and in no case the muck / debris shall be allowed to roll down the hill slopes.
- (20) Wherever possible and technically feasible, the user agency shall undertake strip plantation on both sides of the national highways.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

However, prior to granting permission by the state government for starting the work of project a detailed mitigation plan / animal passage plan as recommended by the state CWLW shall be prepared, on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*, by the project proponent in consultation with state CWLW and same shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.10 AGENDA ITEMS OF TAMIL NADU

50.3.10.1 Cyclone – Ockhi – Kanyakumari district – Damage caused in forest areas of Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary- Approval of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for removal of about 10,000 number of fallen trees damaged, uprooted and wind fallen due to Ockhi Cyclone in Kaniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden

recommended proposal without imposing conditions and the SBWL has also recommended this proposal in its meeting on 23rd January 2018.

He also mentioned that the Hon'ble the Supreme Court vide its order dated 09.05.2002 in its interim order stated that

“No permission under Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 should be granted without getting the approval of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife”

Further the IGF(WL) also stated that the Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 stipulates that

“Provided that where the forest produce removed from the PA, the same may be used for the meeting the needs of the people living near the sanctuary and shall be used for any commercial purpose”

The Secretary, MoEF&CC stated that the forest produce should be used for the benefit of local people and the income generated from auction be utilized for the conservation of protected areas.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal with the condition that the forest produce be used for the benefit of local people and the income generated be shall be utilized exclusively for the conservation of Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining forests. The state government shall prepare Habitat improvement plan, Wildlife conservation plan, and human wildlife conflict mitigation plan which shall be implemented simultaneously from the above generated income.

A supervised removal of the fallen trees and habitat improvement of the area denuded due to such removal should be done in a phased manner so as to keep the anthropogenic disturbance at minimum level.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.11 AGENDA ITEMS OF UTTARAKHAND

50.3.11.1 Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project Naranu reconstruction of bridge in district Uttarakashi, Block Mori, Uttarakhand

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 0.1164 ha of forestland from Govind Pashu Vihar National Park for reconstruction of bridge in Block Mori of District Uttarakashi. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden recommended proposal without imposing conditions.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15/06/2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal.

50.3.11.2 Construction of bridle road from Bheembali to Rambara (Chainage 81.325 to 82.825) as link road to provide connectivity to Shri Kedarnath Dham

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 0.900 ha of forestland from Kedarnath Musk Deer Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of road from Bheembali to Rambara). He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden recommended proposal without imposing conditions.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15/06/ 2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that mitigation measures / animal passage plan will be prepared in consultation with CWLW based on the WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife* and implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.11.3 Establishment of boarder outpost in Tripani general area

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 1.62 ha of forestland from Gangotri National Park for construction and establishment of boarder outpost in Tripani general area. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden recommended proposal subject to the conditions that

- (1) No quarrying of stone shall be in the National Park.
- (2) The debris in the national park should be deposited in the area in consultation with the park officials and not thrown in the areas with steep slopes.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15/06/ 2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the conditions imposed by the State CWLW.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.12 AGENDA ITEMS OF UTTAR PRADESH

50.3.12.1 Proposal for setting up the Retail Outlet, proposed by Indian oil Corporation Ltd, Noida Division, along with NH-24 (Hapur – Moradabad) at private land Plot No.2528/2529, village Garh Bangar, Tehsil Garh Mukteshwar, District Hapur located near the boundary of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the setting up the retail outlet in the private land, Plot No.2528/2529 at village Garh Bangar, Tehsil Garh Mukteshwar, District Hapur located in the draft notified ESZ of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden recommended proposal imposing following conditions:

- (1) Protection and mitigation measures for wildlife should be ensured as per standard practice in such cases.
- (2) Land shall not be used for any other purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- (3) Rules and regulation of the concerned departments for establishing the project shall be complied with.
- (4) The instructions/orders passed by the State Govt./ Central Govt. and the directions passed by Hon'ble High Court/Supreme Court from time to time regarding such project shall be complied with.
- (5) User agency will ensure that the project personnel engaged in the project shall observe the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 & Rules made thereafter.
- (6) Construction waste materials will not be thrown inside the sanctuary area or movement corridor of wildlife.
- (7) User agency will take all precautions including technical measures to contain the noise and air pollution, protection from fire due to construction activities.
- (8) The project proponent shall obtain consent to establish and to operate from U.P. Pollution Control Board and effectively implement all the conditions stipulated therein.
- (9) Two GPS sets shall be provided for the survey and demarcation of the sanctuary boundaries to the Bijnor forest division.
- (10) No labour camp shall be established in the sanctuary/forest area or other sensitive area.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 26/05/ 2015.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.12.2 De-notification of Kachhua Wildlife Sanctuary from 940 km to 970 km

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the de-notification of Kachhua Wildlife Sanctuary having an area of 7 km of mid stream of river Ganga from both the banks notified vide no. 1485/14-4-2008-823 dated 21-03-2009 and to notify upstream stretch of 30 km (from 940 km to 970 km) stretch of river Ganga near Newada.

Proposal for denotification of the existing sanctuary and notification of new stretch of the river as sanctuary is based on the study "*Assessment of the wildlife values of the Ganga River from Bijnor to Ballia including turtle wild life sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh*" conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India,

Dehradun on the request of the UP State Government. The report was submitted to the State Government vide WII no. WII/SAH-TWS-UP/2018 dated 6th July 2018.

While submitting the justification for the proposal for de-notification of the existing Kachua Wildlife Sanctuary the state government highlights the following findings of the WII study:

“Only five freshwater turtle species were encountered in TWS out of the 13 species reported from the Ganga river. Capture rates for turtle species were low in the TWS, indicating low abundance of turtles during the sampling period and high anthropogenic disturbance within TWS.”

The State Government also highlights the following conclusion of the study about efficacy of Kacchua wildlife Sanctuary

“3.1.5 very low encounter rate of turtles in TWS indicate high human disturbance leading to habitat alteration within a very small Protected Area. Sites along the TWS in left bank are seen to have least suitable habitat for turtles with high anthropogenic presence such as cemented ghats, intense ferry and boat activity, pollution and human presence along the river. The sand bar in the right bank of the sanctuary though is an excellent habitat for turtles and breeding birds, is also under severe anthropogenic pressure. Higher diversity and catch of fish species from the TWS is indicative of restriction on fishing in the sanctuary”

While pointing to the findings of the study where Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary receives the score of 1(one) in overall aquatic habitat quality the State Government concludes that

“it is clear from the above that 7 km stretch was observed to have high anthropogenic disturbance throughout the day and night due to motor boat and tourist activities in certain areas of the sanctuary and is ranked as ‘No habitat-1’. This shows that Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary has been classified into no habitat class. Hence, due to high human disturbance leading to habitat alterations within a very small protected area, Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary is found to have least suitable habitat for turtles with high anthropogenic disturbance and aforesaid area is no longer is of adequate ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, natural or zoological significance, for the purpose of protecting, propagating or developing wildlife or its environment”

While justifying their intention for notification of upstream stretch of 30 km (from 940 km to 970 km) stretch of river Ganga near Newada in lieu of existing Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary the state government refers to following conclusion of the WII report regarding habitat suitability for the purpose of finalizing conservation priority areas in river Ganga.

“10. Based on combined score the stretch from downstream Newada in Allahabad district to Adalpur in Mirzapur district, a total of 140 km may be considered as conservation priority area and notified as wildlife sanctuary under provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Since the ecological characteristics and wildlife values vary along the 140 km stretch on account of anthropogenic pressure, harmonization for excluding some areas having high anthropogenic pressures on account of intense cultural religious uses may be required and to be done by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department.”

For the purpose of identifying suitable stretch for declaring as Wildlife Sanctuary from the stretch of 140 km suggested by the WII study the state government has analyzed the cumulative score

of stretches and concluded that cumulative score of 3 stretches (940-950, 950-960 and 960-970) comes out to be 10.36, which is highest in all the stretches. Accordingly state government concludes that

“considering the high conservation suitability of this particular stretch of 30 km near Newada near Allahabad (940-970 km), it is considered appropriate to notify it as a Wildlife Sanctuary under the provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for conservation of turtles and other aquatic fauna. This would sufficiently compensate/mitigate the existing Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary, which is only 7 km stretch length, while the aforesaid area being proposed as sanctuary would cover 30 km length in an areas which is more than 4 times and of much higher conservation value as per WII report.”

This proposal was discussed in the State Board for Wildlife of Uttar Pradesh in its meeting on 30th August 2018.

The board while seeking information about the efforts being made for turtle conservation, noted the following conclusion of the WII study “.....As evident from the assessment, the creation of protected areas does help in species conservation, along the Ganga river. However, the area should be large covering diverse habitat type and minimal threats.”

The SBWL recommended the proposal of de-notification of Kacchua wildlife sanctuary along with compensatory/mitigation measures as per details below.

- (1) Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary, Varanasi was found to be very low on the basis of different parameters for suitability. Hence the proposal for de-notification may be forwarded to MoEF&CC for approval of the standing committee of the NBWL and as per prevailing legal provisions the permission be obtained from CEC / Hon’ble Supreme Court.
- (2) Proposal for notification of 30 km (940 km to 970 km) stretch near Newada (Allahabad) as wild life sanctuary may be forwarded to MoEF&CC for approval of standing committee of NBWL and following action may also be taken simultaneously:
 - (a) The social Impact assessment of proposed Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary will be conducted and mitigation measures would also be adopted.
 - (b) Opinion of Chief Naval Hydrographer would also be obtained.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with following conditions:

- (i) Social Impact Assessment of the proposed Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary will be conducted and mitigation measures would be adopted.
- (ii) Opinion of Chief Naval Hydrographer would be obtained.

The State Government has recommended the proposal for de-notification of Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary and notification of 30 Km (940 km-970 km) stretch near Newada (Allahabad) as wild life sanctuary in view of recommendations made by SBWL, UP in its meeting dated 30.8.2018 under the chairmanship of Hon’ble Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh along with the conditions stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden and State Board for Wildlife.

The State Government may proceed with the process of notification of proposed Wildlife Sanctuary and de-notification of existing Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary as per the prevailing instructions and relevant provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

(Any other item with the permission of the Chair)

50.4 AGENDA ITEMS OF RAJASTHAN

50.4.1 Bhaisrodgah – Borav Water Supply Project in Mukundara National Park, Kota

The State Chief Wildlife Warden has requested the board to consider the proposal for construction of Bhaisrodgah – Borav Water Supply Project for the benefit of village people of District Kota.

The IGF(WL) stated that the said proposal is falling in Mukundara Tiger Reserve and the proposal was referred to the NTCA for their recommendations. He also stated that the NTCA has not submitted the report and therefore as per procedure the proposal was not placed before the Standing Committee. However the Standing Committee may like to take a view regarding inclusion of this agenda at this stage. The Standing Committee considered the fact that proposal is related to drinking water supply for the welfare of villagers accepted the request of the Chief Wildlife Warden of Rajasthan to take up the proposal in the meeting.

The Committee noted that

- (1) diversion of 10.71508 ha forestland from Mukundara National Park is required for construction of Bhaisrodgah – Borav drinking water project.
- (2) The State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended proposal with following conditions:
 - (a) NBWL has approved extraction of water from the Chambal River in other drinking water project. This uptake of 2.25 MLD would also be subjected to compliance of orders of Hon'ble Supreme court in I.A.NO.1698 of 2006 dated 17.10.2008 in Nadoti Chambal Drinking Water Project as below:

“..... The project was examined by CEC. It was found that minimum flow of water observed during the last 20 years was 4.78 cusecs.....A monitoring committee consisting of the representative of Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan and Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department Will be set up to monitor and ensure that the prescribed minimum flow of water downstream of the tapping point of Chambal River will be maintained.”

In the CEC recommendation referred in above case, it has been indicated that the flow of 4.78 cusecs corresponds to a water level of 147.74 m at Mandrayal.

- (b) 5% of the proportionate cost of the project within 10 km of the boundary of Mukundra Hills National Park and Bhainsrodgarh Sanctuary will be deposited by the User Agency in the account

of Rajasthan Protected Areas Conservation Society (RPACS) for wildlife conservation and mitigation works.

- (c) No work shall be done before sunrise and after sunset in the Protected Area.
 - (d) No material of any kind should be extracted from the Protected Area.
 - (e) No tree shall be cut during the work in the Protected Area.
 - (f) There will be no labour camping within 500 m of the Protected Area boundary.
 - (g) There will be no blasting within 500 m of the Protected Area boundary.
 - (h) The waste material generated should be disposed outside the Protected by the User agency.
 - (i) One connection for drinking water will be provided at end point village Udpuria free of cost for providing the drinking water to wild animals in the adjoining deep forest in Wildlife Kota division.
 - (j) User agency will provide water at sites decided by the DCF (WL), MNP.
 - (k) The user agency and project personnel will comply with the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (3) The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 21/12/2017.

On being asked regarding delay in submission of the report the DIGF(NTCA) stated that the Site Inspection Committee report would be submitted in seven days.

Considering the fact that the proposal is related to supply of water for the welfare of villagers the Standing Committee decided to recommend the project subject to the conditions stipulated by State Chief Wildlife Warden and compliance of Hon'ble Supreme Court order in IA No. 1698 of 2003 dated 17.10.2008 and the recommendations of the NTCA.

Further the Standing Committee decided that the State Government shall grant permission of start of work only after compliance of the conditions regarding pre-construction phase of the project stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden and the NTCA.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1	Dr Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Envi. Forest & Climate Change	Chairman
2	Shri C K Mishra, Secretary, MoEF&CC	Member
3	Shri M S Negi, ADGF(WL), MoEF&CC	Member Secretary
4	Dr H S Singh, Member, NBWL	Member
5	Shri R D Kamboj, Member, NBWL	Member
6	Dr V B Mathur, Director, WII Dehradun	Member
7	Shri A K Misra, PCCF(WL) & CWLW, Maharashtra	Invitee
8	Shri S B Bhalavi, DFO, Maharashtra	Invitee
9	Shri D Nalini Mohan, CWLW, Andhra Pradesh	Invitee
10	Shri G N Sinha, CWLW, Arunachal Pradesh	Invitee
11	Shri P Ringu, DCF(WL), Arunachal Pradesh	Invitee
12	Shri Koj Tasser, DFO, Arunachal Pradesh	Invitee
13	Shri Sanjay Kumar, CWLW, Jharkhand	Invitee
14	Shri Om Prakash, DFO, Jharkhand	Invitee
15	Shri D Bankhwal, CWLW, Assam	Invitee
16	Shri Dibyadhar Gogoi, CF, Assam	Invitee
17	Shri Ishwar Singh, CWLW, Delhi	Invitee
18	Shri Subhash, Melkede, CWLW, Karnataka	Invitee
19	Shri Lingappa, DCF, Karnataka	Invitee
20	Shri Bala Prasad, CWLW, Manipur	Invitee
21	Shri Shyam Singh, DFO, Manipur	Invitee
22	Dr Krishna Kumar, CWLW, Tamil Nadu	Invitee
23	Smt Renuka Kumar, Principal Secretary, Uttar Pradesh	Invitee
24	Shri S.K. Upadhyaye, CWLW, Uttar Pradesh	Invitee
25	Shri S P Yadav, APCCF, Uttar Pradesh	Invitee
26	Shri G V Reddy, CWLW, Rajasthan	Invitee
27	Shri S K Jain, APCCF, Rajasthan	Invitee
28	Shri M K Tewari, DCF, Rajasthan	Invitee
29	Dr D Dhananjay, CWLW, Uttarakhand	Invitee
30	Shri Shravan Kumar, DFO, Uttarakhand	Invitee
31	MS Nitu Lakshmi, DFO, Uttarakhand	Invitee
32	Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, IGF(WL), MoEF&CC	Invitee
33	Shri Nishant Verma, DIGF(NTCA)	Invitee
34	P Ravi, Scientist, MoEF&CC	Invitee
35	Srhi Ravi Kumar, Legal Assistant, MoEF&CC	Invitee

1	Name of the proposal	Renotifying the boundaries of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary without reducing the area and extent from 700 sq.km to 395.608 sq.km
2	Name of the protected Area involved	Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary
3	File No.	6-48/2017 WL
4	Name of the State	Karnataka
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	700.00 sq.km
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion/ Denotification	395.608 sq.km
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	NIL
8	Status of ESZ, draft notified / notified, if any	Proposal has been received and is under scrutiny
9	Name of the applicant agency	State Govt. of Karnataka
10	Total number of tree to be felled	NA
11	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	Yes
12	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife SBWL recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 31.08.2016.	
13	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency Proposal is for rectification / rationalization of boundary of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary. An area of >300sq.km comprising of townships, villages and agricultural lands have also been included inadvertently in the notification of sanctuary in 1974. The State Govt. has requested to exclude >300 sq.km from the total area of 700 sq.km, and notify total area of 395.608 sq.km as the area of sanctuary.	
14	Rare and endangered species found in the area Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary is home to tiger, leopard, elephant, jackal, spotted deer, malabar giant squirrel, giant flying squirrel, pangolin, porcupine, common mongoose, bonnet macaque, sloth bear, common langur, wild pig, etc.	
15	Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden State CWLW recommended the proposal without imposing conditions.	
16	Comments of Ministry The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.	

1	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 1007.29 ha of forestland from Palamau Tiger Reserve for construction of North Koel Reservoir Project, Dist. Latehar, Jharkhand			
2	Name of the protected Area involved	Palamau Tiger Reserve			
3	File No.	6-81 /2017 WL			
4	Name of the State	Jharkhand			
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice			
6	Area of the protected area	1129.93 sq.km			
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion/ Denotification	S.No	Name of village	Forest Area (in ha)	Legal status of Forest
		1	Kutku	676.79	Protected forest
		2	Bhajna	136.31	Protected Forest notified as Palamau WLS
		3	Khura	16.17	Protected Forest notified as Palamau WLS
		4	Khaira	3.43	Protected Forest notified as Palamau WLS
		5	Mandal	3.43	Reserve Forest notified as Buffer area of palamau TR
		6	Meral	126.13	Reserve Forest notified as Buffer area of Palamau TR
		7	Saneya (Jungle Jhar)	45.03	Deemed Forest
		Total		1007.29	
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	Nil			
8	Name of the applicant agency	Water Resources Department, Govt. of Jharkhand.			
9	Total number of tree to be felled	Proposal indicates that no clearing of vegetation is required.			
10	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	Yes			
11	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 26 th April 2017				

12	<p>Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency</p> <p>The present proposal is for the diversion of forest land for North Koel Reservoir Project. The project was conceived in 1960s by the Govt. of Bihar and the project was started in 1970s. It was envisaged to construct a masonry Dam in Kutku village and a Barrage near Mohammadganj village 96 km downstream of Mandal Dam and two canals emanates from the barrage to irrigate 72,157 ha of land in the States of Jharkhand and Bihar. The project is located in the most drought prone area of Jharkhand and Bihar States. The area has witnessed 10 major famines since 1935. The construction work of Dam and Barrage has been completed except the installation of gates in the Dam. Also, some work of spillway and deck slab and installation of low level construction sluice and irrigation sluice is yet to be completed. The right main canal and 40% of its distributaries have been completed and 90% of left main canal have been completed. This partially completed project is presently irrigating during Kharif season nearly 50,000 ha and 6,000 ha of land in States of Bihar and Jharkhand respectively. After the fully operation of project, the irrigation potential will reach upto 72,157 ha of land as targeted in the project. Also, after the operation of the project, water will be available for drinking purpose to the local inhabitants of Palamau, Latehar and Garhwa district of Jharkhand State as well as for industrial purpose. This water will also be available to wildlife of the Palamau TR which has been facing severe scarcity of water. Hence the migration of wildlife will stop in nearby human settlements. It is also estimated that the fully operation of the project will generate revenue of approximately Rs.24,337 lakh annually.</p>
13	<p>Rare and endangered species found in the area</p> <p>The proposal indicates the presence of cheetal, sambhar, gaur, kotra, harha, elephant, sloth bear, peacock, etc.</p>
14	<p>Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden</p> <p>The Chief Wildlife Warden has mentioned in Part IV of the proposal that the main objection by the Forest Department was based on the height of gates which was proposed as 367.28 m FRL. At this height, it was expected that nearly 6000 ha of prime forest area was going to be submerged. Besides, 15 villages were expected to be either fully or partially submerged. In this present proposal, the user agency i.e. Planning and Monitoring Division of Water Resources department, Govt. of Jharkhand has agreed to reduce the height of gate and accordingly leading to reduction in submergence of Forest area. Now it is proposed to keep the height of gate to 341 m FRL and so only 1007.29 ha of forestland will be submerged. Also, the no. of affected village has been reduced to minimum. Apart from direct advantages of the Dam like creation of permanent water body in drier part of Tiger Reserve, creation of site for Bird Conservation etc., many other indirect benefits like fisheries, agriculture and other livelihood options will develop. The Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) During construction or installation of gates, the project authorities should construct Jetty at important locations. Motor boat as well as paddle boat should also be made available to monitor and control illicit fishing and birds poaching. (2) The total number of trees to be felled is approx. 3,44,644 as per joint enumeration of trees. Such loss of trees should be compensated by planting same numbers of trees through Jan Van Yojana, Kisan nursery, etc., within Project Tiger jurisdiction. (3) The height of gates was initially proposed as 367.28 m FRL and accordingly compensation has been paid to villages of 13 villages against their land holdings. The new Khatiyani has been created and all land has been shown in Nadi Ghati Pariyojana land. The Govt. may consider transferring all such land to Palamau Tiger Reserve.
15	<p>Comments of Ministry</p> <p>The proposed project falls in the Palamau Tiger Reserve and requires the recommendations of NTCA.</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.</p>

Inspection Report of North Koel Reservoir Project (Mandal Dam), Jharkhand State

(Report submitted to the Standing Committee of the NBWL)



Koel River and forests at its bank (above) and dam constructed at Mandal (below)



June, 2017

Inspection Report of North Koel Reservoir Project (Mandal Dam), Jharkhand State

1. Background

A proposal for diversion of 1007.29 ha forest land from Palamau Tiger Reserve for construction of North Koel Reservoir Project (Mandal dam), Dist. Latehar, Jharkhand was recommended by the Jharkhand State Board for Wild Life. The proposal from the State Wild Life Board was submitted to the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) for an appropriate decision. The proposal was discussed in the 42nd meeting (15th May 2017) of the Standing Committee of the NBWL. After brief discussion, the Standing Committee decided that a Committee comprising of Dr. R. Sukumar, Dr. H. S. Singh, Shri R. D. Kamboj, and a representative each from National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Wildlife Institute of India (WII), State Government and User Agency, would conduct a site visit and submit a report for further consideration. Subsequently, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India communicated vide letter no. F. No. 6-8/2017- WL, dated 23rd May, 2017, that the report was to be submitted shortly after the site inspection. The terms of reference are as mentioned in the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee of the NBWL.

In order to look into the issues concerning wildlife and their habitats with respect to this project, the following members of the team conducted field inspections from 30th May to 1st June, 2017.

Dr. H. S. Singh, Member, NBWL

Mr. D. P. Bankhwal, Inspector General of Forest (WL), NTCA, Guwahati

Dr. Pratap Singh, Scientist G, WII, Dehradun

Dr. M. P. Singh, Field Director, Palamau Tiger Reserve, Palamau, Jharkhand

Mr. Aftab Alam, Executive Engineer, Planning & Monitoring Division, Water Resource Department, Medninagar, Jharkhand

Dr. Kaushik Banerjee, Scientist D, WII, Dehradun

Dr. R. Sukumar, Member NBWL, had visited the North Koel dam site on 10th May 2017 when he was at Palamau Tiger Reserve in connection with the all-India synchronised elephant census. Dr. M.P. Singh, Field Director, Palamau TR, had accompanied Dr. Sukumar and explained the main features of the Mandal Dam and its implications for the reserve.

2. The field visit

Mr. D. P. Bankhwal, IG (WL), NTCA, had already prepared a brief note after visiting different areas before arrival of the full team. The Field Director of Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR) and his colleagues briefed the team about the Tiger Reserve (PTR) on the evening of 30th May 2017. Dr D. S. Srivastava from the Nature Conservation Society, an NGO based at Daltonganj, Jharkhand, has prepared a “Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan of North Koel Reservoir Project (Mandal Dam)”, after completing a study in the area with respect to the proposed reservoir project and its impact on the PTR. He presented his findings about habitat loss, major wildlife species and impact of the reservoir on movement of elephants and other major mammals, before the team. After the presentations, the team members discussed various issues likely to arise after implementation of the revised project, connected with impact on wildlife, their habitat and local people living in the proposed submergence villages and other adjoining villages in the catchment.

The team along with the field staff of the Palamau Tiger Reserve visited Mandal Dam in the forenoon on 31-05-2017 and had detailed discussions about the dam which has already been largely constructed at the site during the 1970s. The team also visited surrounding areas, including the sites which may go under submergence after completion of the project. At Barwadih Forest Rest House, the team had detailed discussions with the officials of the Irrigation Department regarding the Mandal Dam. The Executive Engineer and the representative of the project proponent provided detailed background of the project, the decision of the NITI Ayog, and technical note submitted by the Central Water Commission, vide letter no 1/18/1982/2016/6- CMSS (N & W). He also explained the

technical strategies for keeping the ponding level at 341.0 m to avoid submergence of the core area of the PTR by keeping the dam's crest height intact at 352.28 m.

In the afternoon, the team visited the catchment area of the proposed dam and Lat, Tongari and other villages which will supposedly be impacted by upcoming river project. The team had an opportunity to see prime elephant habitat and local movement within the Palamau Tiger Reserve. In the evening, the team and the officials of the Forest Department met to arrive at a decision to prepare the report. The matter was again discussed with the Chief Wildlife Warden and the Field Director (PTR) at Ranchi in the evening of 1-06-2017.

3. About the project - Mandal Dam

The North Koel Reservoir Project was conceived at village Mandal, Block-Barwadih in 1970-71 by Irrigation Department, the then Govt. of Bihar. North Koel river, one of the major tributaries of Sone river, has a catchment area of at least 9,100 km², contributing a large volume of water to river Sone during the rainy season. In peak summer, it is almost without water flow for nearly a month. It passes through the northern part of Palamau Tiger Reserve. The project was conceived by the Government of Bihar for generation of 24 MW of electricity and providing water for irrigation to several villages of the State by creating a barrage at Mohammadganj village, at 96 km downstream of Mandal dam. Two canals emanate from the barrage to irrigate agricultural lands of Bihar and Jharkhand. The areas to be benefitted are Aurangabad and Gaya districts of Bihar and Palamau district of Jharkhand. This partially completed project is irrigating 50,000 ha land of Bihar and 6,000 ha land of Jharkhand during the kharif season. After the completion of the project, it is estimated that the project will irrigate up to 72,157 ha of land.

Initially, Bihar State had planned to construct a dam up to height of 367.28 m for releasing water to feed Mohammadganj and Indrapuri Barrage downstream. Indrapuri Barrage is located on river Sone, and it was presumed that excess water from Mohammadganj barrage will flow into the Sone and, hence, into Indrapuri Barrage. As per discussions with officials of the Forest Department and the project proponent, construction of the dam started before the commencement of the Forest Conservation Act 1980, and almost every structure was created, except the installation of sluice gates and spillways. The Forest Department initiated action under the FCA, 1980, when installation of sluice gate was started in 1993. A very serious violent conflict between the local people and the officials of the Irrigation Department also emerged when some villages were submerged during rains when the water level reached to dam's crest height. The Irrigation Department could not close the gate due to violent reaction of the local people.

Clearance by Project Tiger, Govt. of India, was accorded on 16 November 1978 with five conditions. The process of forest diversion was started in 1982 for the forest measuring 4,170.48 ha. Govt. of

India asked for certain clarifications in 1982 which were not submitted by the Bihar Govt. The environmental clearance was given by Govt. of India vide letter No.- 3/89/00-HCT/EH5, dated 2nd Jan, 1984, which prescribed 8 safeguards, including rehabilitation of all submergence villages and wildlife-impacted villages of Lat group. These villages are Tungari, Barkheta, Lat, Harhe Gasedag, Bere, Patradih, Serendag, Karamdih, Nawarnagu, Tanwai and Khamikhas. After completion of the work and settling the compensation and other issues of some villages, the Irrigation Department tried to install the gate in 1993 but was not allowed by Palamau Tiger Reserve management. Subsequently, the matter was reported to Govt. of Bihar and Govt. of India by Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR). The Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt of India, vide its letter no. 4-24//93-PT-dated 15 July 1993 ordered the stoppage of construction activities.

After the formation of the state of Jharkhand, the Water Resources Department, Jharkhand, furnished information on 14 points sought by Govt. of India vide its letter No. 8-178/82-FC dated 30.07.1986. This submission involved 6,023.53 ha of forest land for diversion which was different from the earlier proposal of 4,170.48 ha that was against the guidelines of Forest Conservation Act, 1980. As the proposal involved a large area of PTR, the PCCF, Jharkhand, referred to the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court that any forest land diversion in a Tiger Reserve should have prior approval of NBWL and the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department, Medininagar, informed Govt. of Bihar on 06.05.2015 on the consent to decrease Full Reservoir Level (FRL) from 367.25 m to 363.28 m., reducing the proposed submergence area from 5113.36 ha to 4253.68 ha. A letter from National Tiger Conservation Authority, New Delhi vide letter No. F. No.-9-1/2016-NTCA dated 08.09.2016 was received by Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Jharkhand, with the minutes of the meeting on North Koel Project held on 11.08.2016 under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. The letter communicated that, in principle, it is desirable to take up completion of the project with the ponding at 341 m (MDDL). For this level of ponding, the Govt. of Jharkhand will estimate and submit to the Central Water Commission the submergence with ground verification, project design and execution plan.

The Govt. of Jharkhand submitted an application for the clearance and mentioned the issue of compensatory afforestation against the forest submergence. Meantime a site-specific Wildlife Management Plan has been prepared to fulfil the statutory conditions under the Forest Conservation Act and Wildlife Protection Act for diversion of forest land in PTR and mitigation measures to minimise negative impact on wildlife. The plan was prepared by the Nature Conservation Society (NCS), Daltonganj, and M/s Mantec Consultants Pvt Ltd, Noida. The plan was submitted by M/s Mantec Consultants Pvt. Ltd., Noida in March, 2017 to the Forest Department. This plan has been accepted by State Wild Life Board, Jharkhand, and forwarded to National Board of Wildlife.

4. The Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR)

The Palamau Tiger Reserve was notified in 1974 as one of India's first nine tiger reserves established under Project Tiger. It is located in the western part of the Chhotanagpur Plateau spreading over an area of 1129.93 km². The core area of PTR is 414.08 km² and buffer area is 715.85 km². This covers the Palamau Wildlife Sanctuary (742.40 km²) and Betala National Park (226.32 km²), spread over the districts of Latehar and Garhwa in Jharkhand. The core area is made up of a part of Betala National Park (213.54 km²) and a part of Palamau Wildlife Sanctuary (200.54 km²). Buffer is constituted by 541.86 km² of Palamau WLS, 12.78 km² of National Park and 161.21 km² of Reserved Forests.

The PTR is bounded by River North Koel on its west and River Auranga to its north. Its adjoining landscape includes the forests of Mahuadanr Range, including Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary (63.256 km²) and the forests of Bhandaria and Ranka East Ranges of Garhwa Forest Division (590.10 km²), which are contiguous with the Sarguja Forest Division of Chhattisgarh. The Latehar Forest Division is located on the western side. There is connectivity of the PTR with forests of Medininagar Forest Division on the north-eastern part of the reserve.

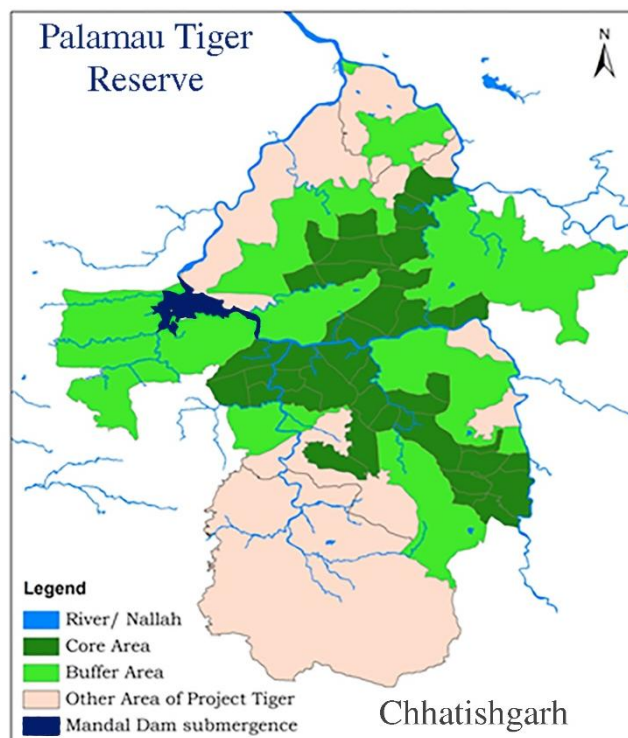
Palamau Tiger Reserve has been classed within the Central Indian Landscape Complex – one of the largest tiger landscapes in India as described by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). On its western side, the contiguity of habitat from Palamau extends into the Sanjay-Dubri Tiger Reserve, through Guru Ghasidas National Park, all the way to Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. This makes it a part of the 25,000 km² of Bandhavgarh- Sanjay- Guru Ghasidas- Palamau landscape. The PTR is also connected to the Achanakmar- Kanha tiger landscape through the Jashpur and Mahan forests of Chhattisgarh. To its north-east, the PTR is weakly connected to the Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary and Koderma Wildlife Sanctuary along the border with Bihar through the Lawalong Wildlife Sanctuary in Chatra district as well as the Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary. Towards the south, it is connected to the Saranda/ Odisha landscape through forests of Simdega and Palkot Wildlife Sanctuary in the Gumla district near Jashpur region of Chhattisgarh.

Palamau Tiger Reserve is situated in the north-western part of Chhotanagpur plateau having plains, spurs, hills, and valleys within its boundaries. The altitude varies from 200 m to 1104 m. The North Koel River dissects the PTR and creates a watershed along with Auranga and Burha Rivers. PTR has unique ecology due to diverse forest composition with variation of altitude, water table and temperature difference. The entire forest area is on the slope of Chhotanagpur plateau, gradually sloping towards the Gangetic Plains of Bihar. Although the region comes under the rain shadow, the forest area regulates the climate of 3 districts namely Palamau, Garhwa and Latehar. It makes the PTR as unique habitat for many wildlife species and the broader biodiversity. The historical records clearly refer to this area as tiger country.

For a tropical seasonal forest, PTR is very diverse with dense forest constituting the prime habitat of diverse wildlife. The Northern Tropical Dry Deciduous Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest and its associates primarily dominate the habitat. Smaller patches of Northern Tropical Moist Deciduous forests also

exist apart from five sub-types, i.e., (i) Moist peninsular Sal, (ii) Dry Peninsular Sal (iii) Northern Dry Mixed Deciduous (iv) *Aegle* and (v) Dry Bamboo Brake. *Phoenix sylvestris* is noted growing along smaller streams. *Shorea robusta*, *Butea monosperma*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Diospyros melanoxylon*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, *Madhuca indica*, *Carissa sp.*, etc. are the major tree species.

The faunal composition of the PTR is very rich and diverse. 40 species of mammals, 205 species of birds, 28 species of amphibians and reptiles, 21 families of insects and 36 species of spiders are recorded. The keystone species are Tiger, Elephant, Leopard, Grey Wolf, Indian Gaur, Sloth Bear, Four- Horned Antelope, Barking Deer, Indian Ratel, Indian Otter and Indian Pangolin. There are 11 Schedule-I species of mammals in the PTR.



According to the All India Tiger Estimate- 2010, Palamau is believed to have a mean population of 10 adult tigers (Range 6-13) with tiger occupancy spread over 1116 km². But the population estimation by the All India Tiger Estimation- 2014 for the PTR on the basis of scat samples was only 3 individual tigers. The forest officials orally informed that there are four tigers which move from the PTR to adjoining areas in Chhattisgarh. The presence of a tigress is doubtful. Thus, the present number of tigers within the PTR is far below its potential capacity. In May, 2017, a total of 182 elephants (preliminary result) were estimated. Presence of Sloth Bear and Leopard is expected to be very good. Although prey species – Indian Gaur, Sambar, Chital, Four-horned Antelope, Barking Deer and Wild Boar are present in the PTR, their population is very low.

Extremely low prey density, caused by prolonged hunting by the large number of villagers inside and on the periphery of the reserve during the last two decades of dominance of the area by left wing extremists, is responsible for the sharp decline in the population of tigers in this tiger reserve. However, once the Palamau Tiger Reserve management regains control over the area, the prey base can be augmented for the benefit of the tiger. They have begun augmenting the population of sambhar in Baresanr Compartment No.9, and are getting a feasibility study conducted from WII, Dehradun, for increasing the population of gaur. Similarly, they should increase the population of chital also. Once the prey population increases and connectivity with neighbouring tiger reserves is maintained, the population of tigers in Palamau will increase.

Current status of the project

Construction of the dam's structure up to its crest height is complete. Only the sluice gates and spillway gates are to be installed. Initially, the project was approved with the FRL of dam at 367.28 m. At that time, as per the survey conducted, 15 villages were coming under submergence due to the impounding of water after the installation of gates of the dam. The project-affected families were identified by the project proponents for relief and rehabilitation. A total of 634 families were identified by them, and as per the records of the Irrigation Department, all of those families were rehabilitated. As per their records, the total population rehabilitated was 3,596 people from 634 families. District authorities provided 34.62 acres of Garmazarua Malik land in village Marda of Bhandariya P.S., and out of 634 families, 83 families agreed to be rehabilitated in Marda rehabilitation colony, whereas the remaining 551 families were allowed to exercise option to settle in villages of their own choice. The officials of Irrigation Department stated that 551 families were given money for settlement and 210 persons from these affected families were also given government jobs.

However, there are still families living in the same villages inside the PTR. The Irrigation Department and the District Administration should resolve the issue to avoid conflicts in future. Their resettlement outside the tiger reserve should essentially be ensured before the installation of sluice gates. If that is not done, these villages, after the submergence of their lands, will shift to some other areas of the tiger reserve.

Now that the Government of India and the Government of Jharkhand have agreed to keep the water level at 341.0 m, the area of submergence has reduced and the number of affected villages has come down to eight. These eight villages are: Kutku, Bhajna, Khura, Chemo, Saneya, Khaira, Mandal and Meral. The submergence area at FRL 341.0 m will be 1637.95 ha, which includes forest land, land as acquired by State Irrigation Department and Garmazarua Malik land. Some members of the team expressed doubt about the submergence area which may be verified to estimate accurately to eliminate error, if any. The affected PTR land in these eight villages comes to 1007.29 ha (962.26 ha under forest category and 45.03 under 'jungle jhar' category). These villages had been provided relief and rehabilitation under the project during 1988-93 by the project proponents. However, they are still inside at their old locations, as mentioned above. As per the records of the PTR, these eight villages together make up 670 households with a population of 3,185, the majority of them being tribal.



Submergence area in front of dam (above) and
structure dam up to crest height at the site (below)



5. Observations and Discussions

Dam and submergence areas

The Mandal dam site falls in the buffer zone of the PTR. The Mandal colony has been already constructed but it is in a dilapidated condition. At the site, the bed level of the river is 305 m, Full Reservoir Level (FRL) – 367.28 m, Crest Level of the dam – 352.28 m, Dead Storage Level (DSL) 330 m. Height of the dam from the bed level is 67.80 m with its length of 408.5 m. The proposal for closing spillway gates has been dropped. Thus, the present dam with the crest level of 352.28 m will be operated without closing spillway gates. In other words, the water may flow above 352.28 m level

during heavy rains and floods, although 6 sluice gates will be operated to bring down the water level at 341.0 m.

The revised project proposes to maintain water ponding level below 341.0 m. The Central Water Commission (CWC) scrutinized the matter to keep the ponding at a certain level and prepared a report regarding the possibility of maintaining the water level at 341.0 m in the reservoir. As per the strategies of the CWC, the inflow into the dam can be discharged downstream through 2 numbers of Low Level Sluices of size 2m x 3 m with invert level at 318 m, 4 numbers of irrigation sluice of size 2 m x 3 m with invert level at 332.0 m and 2 numbers of power intake of size 2.4 m x 3.006 m with invert level at 331.369 m. The CWC claims that the water level in the dam can be maintained at 341.0 m by allowing the water to pass through the existing sluices and power intakes. As per the notes of the CWC, the chances of water level crossing 341.0 m on monthly/10 day basis in the months of August and September cannot be ruled out, but such occasions seem to be rare when sluices and power intake gates are operated to discharge excess water. It is also mentioned in the note that this may be treated as temporary submergence of forest land and should not be a serious concern to the Forest Department, as it is happening in the existing situation also. If flood level reaches beyond the crest level, it will take 5 days to bring water level back to the proposed ponding level at 341 m. Some of the team members have apprehensions about this issue. If heavy rains continue for a few days, high water input from the catchment may also continue for several days. In such a situation, it may not be possible to bring down water level at 341.0 m within 5 days. However, in the absence of an expert on this subject in the team of the Standing Committee of the NBWL, it is not appropriate to make any observations on this issue. In the background of this fact, the team agreed to prepare the report accepting the logic of the CWC. However, the team expressed its concern that the project proponents would ensure maintaining the water level at 341.0 m in order to keep the submergence area within the limit of 1007.29 ha of the PTR throughout the year. Submergence of area up to 352.28 m level, that is apparently happening now and may be for longer duration once construction gates are closed, may result in extra area of submergence without tree cover. Hence it is necessary that other suitable measures such as diversion tunnels may be considered to keep water level within 341.0 m.

Mandal Dam and the local people

The Irrigation Department claims that it has completed settlement of the families living in the villages which may go under submergence after completion of the project. However, a large number of these families still stay in those villages. Also, over a period, the number of families has increased. The submergence area from 241 m level to 352.3 m may attract people for cultivation and in adjoining forests for grazing of cattle. The team has apprehensions that the people may shift to upland areas of the catchment and may continue cultivating the submergence areas when it is exposed after discharge of water. In such a situation, the pressure on the park may increase. The wildlife may not have other options for drinking water during the dry season and will approach the dam waters through human habitation and agricultural land. Serious man-wildlife conflicts may emerge, if this issue is not addressed properly. In the interest of local people and their future prospects, and also for

long-term conservation of the wildlife, the resettlement of people, especially those in the submergence area, needs thorough re-examination so that the prevailing resentments do not escalate.

After completion of the project, the local movement routes of the elephant and other wildlife will be blocked or affected by the linear-shaped reservoir created by the dam. Although elephants can and do swim across large water bodies including reservoirs, the Mandal Dam may compel some elephants and other wildlife, especially carnivores, to opt for other movement routes through a group of villages which are located beyond the submergence level. It is likely that some of those villages may face very serious man-wildlife conflicts, including human deaths, especially because of elephants. It is also pertinent to mention here that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Livelihood Section), Government of India, raised certain points vide F. No. 21/6/2017-Livelihood dated 27th April 2017. The letter mentions that the construction work of the dam started in the year 1972 and continued till 1993. Among the main reasons for non-completion of the project are issues relating to payments and settlement of compensation of area submerged by the dam, and agitation by the displaced people of the area. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs feels that the proposed project is likely to put the displaced Scheduled Tribe project-affected families in an extremely disadvantageous situation as they have already been displaced from the land occupied by them. They not only stand deprived of proper and adequate compensation but may also have to deal with the problem of their rights and livelihoods being squeezed into smaller left out areas without corresponding ameliorative measures. In the background of this fact, the entire settlement issue may be examined in the present context so that grievances of local people are addressed to avoid agitation or genuine deprivation of their rights and livelihoods.

In the interest of people and wildlife, settlement of such villages may be examined by offering very attractive packages including for those families in the submergence area who (or whose ancestors) may have already been compensated many years ago by the Irrigation Department. Irrespective of past compensation, we must remember that the Forest Right Act 2006 would apply to a large section of the people of this region and, hence, the need for a fresh settlement. The region has already suffered from the Naxalite movement in the past and it still prevails in some form in the area. The benefits of this dam will be mostly to Bihar and non-tribal areas in Jharkhand at the cost of local people and wildlife habitat. In such a situation, the central and state governments should be generous in giving benefits to the people who have been affected or will be affected. Anyhow, the completion of the project should minimise the resentments of the local people and ensure that they are content with the package offered. Thus, their settlement, economic uplift and employment should be considered as a part of tribal welfare programmes in the region.

Consolidating and upgrading conservation status of Palamau Tiger Reserve

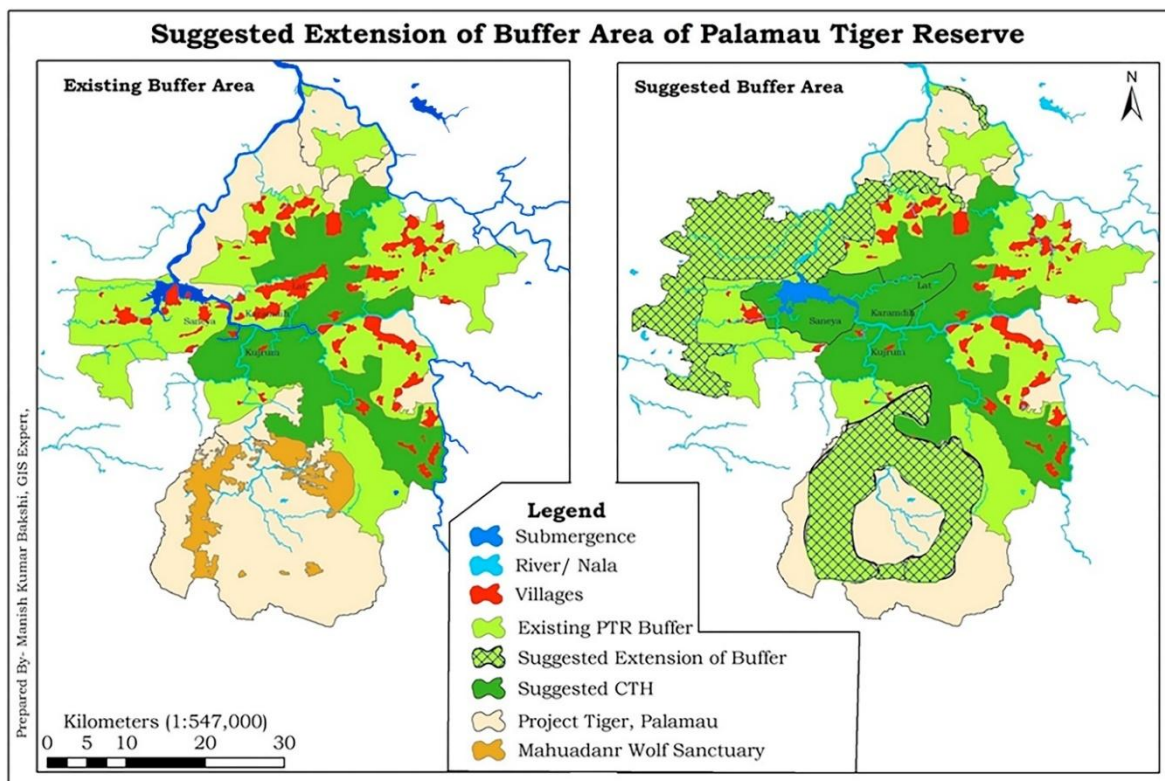
Jharkhand is one of the forest-rich states in the country. The Protected Areas in the state cover only 9.2% of its forest land and 2.7% of its geographical area. Nationally, 23.0% of the forest lands and 4.9% of geographical area are under the network of the Protected Areas. Thus, the extent of Protected Areas in Jharkhand state is much below the national average. In the background of this fact and India's commitment to international conventions to declare substantial areas as Protected Areas, it is necessary for a forested state to constitute Protected Areas greater than the national average. There is logic in improving the extent of the Protected Areas in the state to consolidate biodiversity conservation.

Out of 11 Protected Areas in the state, only the PTR has reasonably good size and the rest of them are small. There is a scope to improve status of conservation of PTR through its consolidation and proactive management to increase the populations of several wildlife species. For effective management of the area in the changed scenario, it is desirable to approve the proposal for altering the boundaries of core and buffer areas of the tiger reserve near the site of the dam. With this in sight, there is a need of inclusion of some uninhabited buffer areas, submerged area, including the reservoir, under the core of the tiger reserve. The Forest Department may carry out an exercise to expand the area of PTR and strengthen its connectivity and corridors by including surrounding forests and government lands. With the help of scientific inputs, the Forest Department may prepare a more comprehensive landscape-scale management plan for PTR and surrounding areas either with their own funds or with funds to be provided by the project proponents.

After completion of the project, the tiger may lose substantial part of resource-rich habitat. To compensate loss of the habitat, adjoining government wasteland (GM land/Raiyati land) in Kerh and Garhi should be transferred to PTR and its management integrated with the

existing tiger habitat. After completion of the project and submergence of the villages, movement of the existing elephant and other animal populations across PTR may shift towards other villages, thus inviting man-animal conflicts. Tribals may suffer seriously in future. In the long term interest of tribals as well as wildlife, shifting of critical villages is desirable and vacated land restored as tiger habitat. Consolidation of connectivity between Betala with core area of PTR should be examined by declaring

adjoining areas as buffer zone of the park. The voluntary resettlement of a few villages or their parts may be explore



d so that the wildlife get freedom of movement from Betala forests to core area of PTR. As a large number of trees will be submerged, the loss may be compensated by raising trees at suitable sites to ensure landscape-scale connectivity. The above map taken from the site-specific management plan for Palamau Tiger Reserve prepared by Nature Conservation Society and Mantec Consultants Pvt. Ltd. is one suggested framework that can be explored within the existing guidelines for management of tiger reserves issued by NTCA.

The impact of the project

The location of the dam falls in buffer area of the tiger reserve. Although the proposed submergence area has been reduced to 1007.29 ha after reducing water ponding level at 341.0 m, the PTR may still lose prime habitat. With reduction of the ponding water level, there may not be any submergence of the core area of PTR. Although length of the linear reservoir under the proposed project will be reduced, it will still fragment the habitat due to the presence of 168 villages inside the tiger reserve and 23 along the periphery. A large part of the habitat of PTR is occupied by cattle from local villages and buffaloes from neighbouring Chhattisgarh. After the submergence of the lands, the movement of wild animals will be affected. The animals could be constrained to move through some villages

sandwiched between these two reserved forests. These are 13 villages, called Lat group of villages, namely, Lat, Serendag, Bere, Gasedag, Karamdih, Khamikhas, Tanwai, Harhe, Barkheta and Nawarnago, and their hamlets (together making up 13 villages). They consist of 1,138 households as per the Census of India, 2011 report (now estimated to have around 1,250 households). The conflict of wildlife with these villages is likely to increase, mostly due to the presence of a good number of elephants (estimated at 150-200) in the tiger reserve. There have been sightings of tiger a few times close to the dam site in Chhipodohar West Range. Shifting of these villages was also considered under the process of rehabilitation by Water Resources Department in compliance of the environmental clearance given by Ministry of Environment and Forest, GoI, in their letter no.3/8980/80-HCT/EH-5 dated 2nd January, 1984. Since then the situation has changed at the national level through the enactment of Forest Rights Act 2006 to protect the genuine interests of traditional forest dwellers, amendments to the Wildlife Protection Act in 2006, incorporation of erstwhile buffer zones into core zones of tiger reserves, declaration of new buffer zones, and newer guidelines issued for management of tiger reserves issued by NTCA at various periods (notably in 2008, 2010 and 2012). The Lat group of villages constitute revenue lands located in the buffer zone of Palamau Tiger Reserve. NTCA agenda is mainly the resettlement of villages from core/critical area of tiger reserves. However, for better ecological integrity of Palamau Tiger Reserve and avoidance of human-wildlife conflicts that may emerge in the future, it is advisable to explore resettlement of at least some of these 13 Lat group of revenue villages outside the tiger reserve through a transparent, voluntary process with a financial and social development package that goes beyond the standard package being offered by NTCA.

The proposed project may have certain positive impacts also. Since the project proposes to maintain dead water level for supply of water to wildlife, the water availability for wildlife will increase, especially during the dry season. Creation of a large water reservoir may result in breeding of fish and congregation of water birds at the site. An important point to mention here that there is no canal associated with this project. The water will be released into the existing river and the regular flow of water in the river will not only recharge ground water and influence riverine habitat but also maintain availability of water in winter and summer seasons in the PTR. This may also attract local people to establish settlements for using resource rich areas. As a result, the reservoir and surrounding area will need intensive surveillance and protection of wildlife habitat. With this in sight, the management of the PTR has proposed for inclusion of all submerged areas, including the reservoir, under the core of the tiger reserve. To give cushion to this added core, the management may consider the extension of buffer area beyond its current limit towards the west. For surveillance and protection of the added core area, necessary infrastructure and logistic support are needed. Villages situated within 10 km downstream of river need assistance through eco-development projects.

As the construction of the main structure of the dam is completed, the disturbance of the proposed project will be restricted to repairing, minor construction and instalment of sluice gates. The project proponents should ensure that during the remaining construction phases of the dam, there should be least disturbance to the animals and their habitat.

6. Recommendations

The dam's main structure with crest height of 352.28 m was completed in 1993. The original provision to install spillways gates has been dropped. The present project proposal ensures and makes commitment to maintaining the ponding water level at 341.0 m. If the ponding level is maintained as proposed or below it even during the peak rainy season with effective submergence of 1007.29 ha area of the PTR, as proposed and discussed in this report, **the committee recommends the project for approval** under the following conditions.

- (i) The project mentions that the maximum water level exceeding the crest height of the dam is very rare. If water level reaches to the present crest height of the dam during exceptionally high rains, it will be brought down at 341.0 m level within 5 days by allowing the water to pass through the existing sluices and power intakes. However, if water discharge capacity of these sluices and power intake gates is not enough to maintain the ponding level at 341.0 m during very heavy rains, some arrangements should be made so that effective submergence area does not exceed 1007.29 ha.
- (ii) The bed level of the river is about 305 m and Dead Storage Level (DSL) at 330 m. Thus, the discharge of water should be strictly stopped when the water level reaches the DSL.
- (iii) By the time sluice gates are readied for installation, the submergence villages should be shifted out of the tiger reserve. As per the project proponents, all the affected families have been given relief and rehabilitation assistance at the time of construction of the dam. However, many of them still reside in the same villages inside the tiger reserve. Keeping the interests of local people, the observation of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and to avoid agitation of the people, a comprehensive plan should address grievances of all families in these villages. If necessary, funds from other sources may be made available to settle these people under an attractive settlement plan. If it is not done properly, some of the families may move into the upper catchment of the PTR after submergence of the villages. In such a situation, the loss of tiger habitat would be multiplied, causing enormous pressure on the PTR in future. The non-forest land in these 15 villages may be notified as forest land.
- (iv) After ponding at 341.0 m, the linear water lake will partly fragment the PTR. This may compel elephants, tiger and other wildlife species to shift their movement/dispersal routes through other villages (such as the 13 Lat group of villages). As a good elephant population would continue to survive in the PTR after completion of the project, the conflicts between local people and elephant may turn serious in future. Hence, for better ecological integrity of the tiger reserve and minimising human-wildlife conflicts, it is advisable to explore the resettlement of at least some of these 13 Lat group of revenue villages outside the tiger reserve after obtaining their willingness. Villages willing for resettlement should be provided special financial and social development packages that go beyond the standard NTCA package for tiger reserves. In addition, sufficient funds should be provided to Palamau Tiger Reserve for dealing with human-wildlife conflicts including handling problematic animals and providing ex-gratia payments to the affected families.
- (v) After completion of the project, the tiger may lose substantial resource rich habitat. To compensate loss of the habitat, adjoining government wasteland (GM land/Raiyati land) in the

landscape should be transferred to PTR and its management should be integrated with the existing tiger habitat.

- (vi) The core area should be expanded suitably to cover adjoining uninhabited buffer zone or other forest areas to strengthen conservation measures, as proposed by the state wildlife board in its site-specific wildlife management plan for mitigation of impacts due to Mandal dam.
- (vii) Extent of Protected Areas in Jharkhand is only 2.7% of its geographical area against the national average of 4.9%, although Jharkhand is a forest rich state. There is logic and reasons for improving the size of the PTR by extending its boundary to cover suitable forests and the government wasteland.
- (viii) Betala area is loosely connected with the main area of the PTR through narrow width of forest. This corridor should be strengthened through transferring adjoining forest and government wastelands. This issue should be examined and if possible, the families from a few villages such as Kerh and Garhi, fully or partly, should be settled outside the PTR under a very attractive settlement package. The population of wild animals in Betla Range is isolated from the rest of the forest area due to swelling of size of these two villages and occupying the erstwhile thin corridors for wildlife management.
- (ix) Hunting by local people is one of the main reasons for depletion of wildlife. The management of PTR should increase their control and surveillance over the tiger reserve. The remnant population of herbivores should be intensively protected to build up population again. At same time, the rapport between the staff of the PTR and villagers should be strengthened through establishing Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and engaging them in conservation activities through implementation of eco-development programmes. A comprehensive education campaign through effective groups or institution may be done in all villages in and around the PTR. The youth from these villages may be recruited as forest guards, foresters and RFOs to establish a strong management system to achieve standards prevailing in some of the outstanding Protected Areas in the country. Although the existing Naxalite activities are a hurdle to achieving the goal, it is possible over a period to change the management environment. If problems in wildlife protection arise due to local people, the solutions also lie in involving them. The BMCs or *Vanyaprani Mitra*, as practiced in Gir National Park, in the villages may establish a strong link between people and the management. The existing organization - Palamau Tiger Conservation Foundation - may be strengthened for more effective communication, education and eco-development activities in the villages within and around the PTR. Funds for eco-development as provided in the site-specific wildlife management plan may be transferred to Palamau Tiger Conservation Foundation for such activities.
- (x) A large number of trees will be submerged in the dam waters. Ten times the number of submerged trees should be raised at suitable areas in the PTR landscape to compensate the loss in accordance with a scientific landscape-scale management plan. However, such plantation areas should be largely outside the tiger reserve, particularly outside the core area, as the tiger reserve needs grasslands along with woodland for augmenting the herbivore population.
- (xi) The project proponents and the management of PTR should ensure that during pre-construction and construction phases of the dam, there should be least disturbance to the animals and their habitat. As suggested by the tiger reserve management itself, only temporary structures should

be created near the dam site by the project proponents. Permanent structures, godowns, etc. should be at Bawardih, outside the tiger reserve. During nights, no construction activity should take place at the dam site.

- (xii) Other suggestions and recommendations in the Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan of North Koel Reservoir Project (Mandala Dam) and accepted by the State Board for Wild Life should be put into operation.

Annexure-1

List of officials and experts who participated in the field visit and discussions during 31st May – 1st June 2017

1. Dr. H. S. Singh, Member, NBWL
2. Dr. L. R. Singh, IFS, PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand State
3. Mr. D. P. Bankhwal, Inspector General of Forest (WL), NTCA, Guwahaty
4. Dr. Pratap Singh, Scientist G, WII, Dehradun
5. Dr. M. P. Singh, Field Director, PTR, Palamau, Jharkhand
6. Dr. Kausik Banerjee, Scientist D, WII, Dehradun
7. Mr. Aftab Alam, Executive Engineer, Planning & Monitoring Division, Medninagar
8. Mr. M. Mahaling, DFO Buffer Zone, PTR
9. Mr. A. K. Mishra, DFO, Core Zone, PTR
10. Dr. D. S. Srivastava, Secretary, Nature Conservation Society
11. Mr Manoj Kumar Singh
12. Mr. Ravi Kumar Singh
13. Mr S. S. Suman, A. E., P& M Division
14. Field staff of the PTR

Dr. R. Sukumar (Member, NBWL Standing Committee) visited the site independently on 10th May 2017 along with Field Director, Palamau TR and DFO, Buffer Zone, PTR.