

**TENTATIVE AGENDA OF 62ND MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF
NATIONAL BOARD FOR WILD LIFE**



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
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**TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR 62ND MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL BOARD FOR WILD LIFE**

AGENDA No. 1

**61.1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 61st Meeting of the Standing
Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 18th February, 2021**

The 61st Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 18th February, 2021, and the minutes were circulated vide letter F.No. 6-16/2021 dated 08th March, 2021 amongst all the Members. Copy of minutes is placed at **ANNEXURE I.**

AGENDA No.2

(ACTION TAKEN REPORT)

SL. No.	Agenda Item	Action Taken	Category
1	Proposal for 98.59 ha of reserve forestland from Saleki proposed reserve forest which is a part of Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve for Tikok OCP coal mining project by North-Eastern Coal Field, Coal India Limited, Assam State	<p>The proposal was considered by the Standing Committee in its 54th meeting held on 18th July 2019. In the 54th meeting, the Standing Committee recommended that an inspection team comprising of Prof. R. Sukumar, representative from the Wildlife Division and the State Chief Wild Life Warden would visit the project site and submit report to this Ministry within one month. Also Ministry may arrange for meeting with officials of Coal India Limited as advised by the Honorable MEF&CC. Site Inspection Committee visited project site and submitted report on 22/10/2019. Meeting with the officials of Coal India were held on 21/01/2020. User agency was requested for Reclamation Plan for already broken up area 57.20 ha.</p> <p>User agency submitted Reclamation Plan to this Ministry on 15/02/2020.</p> <p>The Standing Committee in its 57th meeting decided that the User Agency should submit</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a rectified site specific mine reclamation plan in consultation with the Assam Forest Department.For the unbroken area, a feasibility report for underground mining, and also submits compliance report regarding fulfillment of all other conditions as	Mining

		<p>recommended in the meeting held on 21st January 2020.</p> <p>The matter is also sub-judice in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and High Court of Guwahati.</p> <p>The Standing Committee in 58th meeting held on 03rd July 2020 recommended that the mining activity should be immediately stopped and decided to defer matter till further discussions with Coal India Limited.</p> <p>The Standing Committee in the 59th meeting decided to send a two members fact finding team comprising of an official each from the Ministry and the Assam Forest Department and submit a factual report within a month. Ministry constituted a fact finding team vide Office Order No. 6-38/2019 WL dated 6.11.2020 comprising of Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Integrated Regional Office (Shillong), MoEF&CC and Nodal Officer (FC, Act), Assam Forest Department. The DDG, Shillong has sought extension upto 31.01.2021 vide letter dated 04.12.2020 citing restriction due to COVID – 19.</p> <p>The Standing Committee in the 61st meeting granted extension till 31.01.2021. The report of the Committee was received on vide letter F.No.8-61/2012-FC dated 18.02.2021. The mandate of the team was to reasons/facts/lapses on the part of North-Eastern Coalfield, Coal India Limited and State Government due to which mine was operated without obtaining the recommendations of the SCNBWL for a long time. The report was examined in the Ministry. The report mentions that mining by Coal India Limited</p>	
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		<p>continued based on the mining lease granted by the Ministry of Coal and Mines, Government of India but without obtaining FCA clearance. The report provides present status and strategy to be adopted to face the challenges of illegal mining as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Placement of a trained and armed contingent of Special Protection Force to man identified Coal Exit Points and for continuous alert patrolling of areas susceptible to illegal mining II. Address the livelihood issues of the nearby community members specially those who are actively engaged in the mining and trading of illegal coal III. Impose a moratorium on the local transportation by road, till such time that the availability of legal Coal for the proliferating Coke Bhattas/Collieries is assessed, a mechanism put in place for the sale of legal raw materials and appropriate regulations developed for monitoring and stock verification of the industries. <p>The CIL may be directed to essentially earmark a certain percentage of their CSR funds for undertaking the above activities and for funding Wildlife and Environment awareness and conservation activities. The report of the team is placed at Annexure II</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view.</p>	
2	Proposal for use of 6.704 ha of reserve forestland from Pilibhit Tiger Reserve for	<p>The Standing Committee in 59th meeting decided that the animal passage plan forwarded by the Chief</p>	Railway Line

	<p>Mailani-Pilibhit Gauge Conversion chainage 212.520-213.070 KM and 242.310-250.140 KM (8.38 KM) between Kuriya-Dudhiyakhurd and Sandai Mala, Uttar Pradesh State-FP/UP/RAIL/4257/2019</p>	<p>Wild Life Warden shall be vetted by WII and therefore, decided to defer the proposal.</p> <p>The Standing Committee in the 60th meeting decided to constitute a team comprising of representative of WII, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and Uttar Pradesh Forest Department to study the site and suggest mitigation measures within two months' time. The Ministry has constituted the committee vide F. No. 6-4 /2020 WL dated 09/02.2021.</p> <p>The standing committee in the 61st meeting decided to defer the matter till the receipt of report of the committee. The report of the committee is still awaited.</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view.</p>	
3	<p>Construction of Campierganj Branch Canal in between km.51 to 62.106 under Saryu Nahar Pariyojna in District: Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh</p>	<p>The proposal is for use of 21.864 ha land including 0.4 ha of forest land for construction of Campierganj Branch Canal in between km.51 to 62.106 under Saryu Nahar Pariyojna in Maharajganj District of Uttar Pradesh in the notified Eco-sensitive Zone of Sohagibarwa Wildlife Sanctuary. The Standing Committee in the 60th meeting decided that due to the importance of protected area for its biodiversity and presence of wild animals like tiger, a study might be conducted by the NTCA and report submitted within a month. The Ministry has requested the Member Secretary, NTCA to conduct the study in the area and submit report within a</p>	Canal

		<p>months' time vide F.No.6-171/2020 WL dated 09.02.2021.</p> <p>The standing committee desired that a study might be conducted by the NTCA and report submitted within a month. The Ministry has requested the NTCA to conduct the study vide F.No.6-171/2020 WL dated 09.02.2021 and submit report within a month's time.</p> <p>The Standing Committee in the 61st meeting decided to defer the matter. The comments from NTCA has been received. As per NTCA, the proposed area for construction of Campierganj Branch in between km 51 to 62.106 under saryu Nahar Pariyojana District: Maharajganj does not fall in any Tiger Reserve or tiger Corridor. Therefore, the NTCA has no objection for clearance of the said proposal.</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view.</p>	
4	Issue of Upgradation of Laldhang to Chillakhal road in buffer zone of Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand	<p>The Standing Committee in the 60th meeting had decided that Ministry shall constitute a committee comprising of Dr. Sukumar, representatives from NTCA, WII and NHAI and representative of Government of Uttarakhand to examine the matter and suggest site-specific mitigation measures within a period of 30 days. The Ministry has constituted a committee vide F.No.6-145/2019 WL dated 12.02.2021.</p> <p>The standing committee in the 61st meeting had decided to defer the matter till the report submit to this to this Ministry. The report of the committee is awaited.</p>	Road

		The Standing Committee may like to take a view.	
5.	Proposal for collection of Minor Minerals from Song 1, 2, 3 and Jakhan 1, 2 of Dehradun Forest division, Uttarakhand.	<p>The Standing Committee in the 61st meeting had decided that Ministry shall seek comments from NMCG on the proposal and decided to defer the proposal till the certificate of compliance for Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 in the state of Uttarakhand is submitted by the State Government.</p> <p>The comments from the NMCG and compliance certificate from the State Government of Uttarakhand are awaited.</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view.</p>	
6	400kV D/C Jaunpur Obra Transmission Line, Uttar Pradesh	<p>The Standing Committee decided that Ministry shall constitute a committee comprising of Dr. Sukumar, representatives from Wildlife Institute of India, Central Electricity Authority and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited to examine the matter and suggest site-specific mitigation measures within a period of 30 days. The report of the committee is yet to be received.</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view.</p>	

AGENDA No.3

(Policy Matters, Court Orders/Rationalization of Boundaries of Protected Areas)

S.No.	F.No.	Name of the Proposal
1	1-57/2014 (part-6)	<p>WL Guidelines on Ecotourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas 2021</p> <p>Forests and wildlife are elements of nature and inseparable parts of the environment. Because of the intricate nature of interface between nature and human beings, nature conservation entails interactions with people as a central concept. Eco-tourism has the potential to create significant opportunities for building public awareness and mass movement towards conservation of nature and natural resources while expanding overall returns to the economy, improving skill base, creating new knowledge and green jobs, and improving the livelihoods of the local communities. The Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas 2021 (hereinafter referred to as the Guidelines or the Eco-Tourism Guidelines), therefore, lays the framework for practising and promoting sustainable eco-tourism by maximising outputs that support nature and natural resources in their original forms while minimising any negative externalities arising out of interactions between people and nature.</p> <p>These Guidelines are aimed at promoting better understanding of nature and wildlife conservation while generating income and opportunities for the local communities in an ecologically, culturally and economically sustainable manner. The objectives of these Guidelines include promotion of low impact nature tourism, traditional ecological knowledge and heritage values of India's wilderness, engagement of local communities in nature tourism partnerships amongst various stakeholders and finally enhancing India's potential as a global eco-tourism destination.</p> <p>The Standing Committee in the 61st meeting decided to defer the matter.</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view.</p>

AGENDA No. 4

(Fresh Proposals falling inside / Outside the Protected Area)

DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU

A. Proposal falling inside the protected area

S.No.	F.No.	Name of the Proposal
1.	6-42/2021 WL	Proposal for diversion of 0.1602 ha. land of Dadra and Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary for laying of 160, 125 & 90 mm dia MDPE natural gas pipeline from our proposed/existing pipeline near Dapada DRS in village Dapada to connect Chikhli, Surangi, Khadoli, Khanvel, Kala & Kherdi village & its surrounding area, Dadra and Nagar Haveli. FP/DN/Pipeline/3947/2019

(1)

1	Name of the Proposal	Proposal for diversion of 0.1602 Hect. land of Dadra and Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary for laying of 160,125 & 90 mm dia MDPE natural gas pipeline from our proposed/existing pipeline near Dapada DRS in village Dapada to connect Chikhli, Surangi, Khadoli, Khanvel, Kala & Kherdi village & its surrounding area, Dadra and Nagar Haveli. FP/DN/Pipeline/3947/2019
2	Name of the protected area involved	Dadra and Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary
3	File No	6-42/2021 WL
4	Name of the State/UT	Dadra and Nagar Haveli
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	9139 ha
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion / De-notification	0.1602 ha
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	Nil
8	Status of ESZ if any	Final notification issued on 04.09.2015
9	Specific comments w.r.t section 29 to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972	Proposal for diversion of 0.1602 ha land of Dadra and Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary for laying of 160,125 & 90 mm dia MDPE natural gas pipeline from proposed/existing pipeline near Dapada DRS in village Dapada to connect Chikhli, Surangi, Khadoli, Khanvel, Kala & Kherdi village & its surrounding area in Dadra & Nagar Haveli and attracts provisions of Sec.29 of the Wild Life (Protection) act, 1972. However, the project envisages laying of 160,125 & 90 mm dia MDPE natural gas pipeline within the RoW of existing road and hence the impact is considered to be minimal. However, in the event any forest produce is removed from the area contained in the proposal and approved shall be used for the <i>bonafide</i> needs of the people living in and around the sanctuary and shall not be used for any commercial purpose.
10	Whether linear / non-linear	Linear
11	Whether EC obtained	No
12	Name of the applicant agency	GUJARAT GAS LIMITED
13	Date of submission	26/2/2019

14	Total number of tree to be felled	Nil
15	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES
16	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 27.11.2020. The State Board for Wild Life has suggested to the project proponent to lay pipeline through tunneling method at a depth of 2m. The local tribal households may be given connections at subsidized/reduced rates. Proper mechanism should be in place to detect and prevent leakages. There should be no night tunneling. The project proponent should ensure that all hazard and disaster management aspects are considered and adequate safety is ensured before it starts pipeline work.	
17	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency Diversion of 0.1602 Hect. land of Dadra & Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary for laying of 160,125,90 mm dia PE natural gas pipeline from our proposed/existing pipeline near Dapada DRS in village Dapada to connect Chikhli, Surangi, Khadoli, Khanvel, Kala & Kherdi village & its surrounding area of (U/T) of Dadra & Nagar Haveli: Request for issuing NOC under Wild Life (Protection) Act,1972 In consideration of the requirements of Environmental parameters, construction methodologies to be adopted for different terrain encountered en-route, design and engineering factors, availability of logistic support during construction, operation and maintenance of pipeline, various feasible routes were identified based on desk study of relevant topographic maps of Survey of India. The study was subsequently supplemented with field reconnaissance and data collection along the feasible routes. Finally, the optimum route was arrived at after analyzing the various data and conducting in depth study of topographic maps based on field data. Methodology of selection of pipeline route Relevant topographic maps along the various alternative pipeline route (s) were identified. After conducting a detailed desktop study of the alternative routes on the topographic sheet the feasible routes were identified. This was subsequently supplemented with route reconnaissance data collection along the feasible routes for arriving at the optimum route. The route is finalized. The route is aligned parallel to existing road RoW under PWD department alongwith the villages en-route. The pipeline will be laid at minimum 1.2 m below ground level and as per the requirement of authority. List of the Criteria adopted for Route selection are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The route was formally approved by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) b. Shortest possible pipeline length c. Optimum distance between source of supply and consumer location (demand points) d. Cross at minimum distance through Reserved Forest, Mining area and Defense establishment to the best possible. e. Avoidance of sensitive and highly populated area 	

	<p>f. Safety of people and environment</p> <p>g. Easy access to route during construction and operation period. The route was selected based on least disturbance to environment, forests, human habitation and aquatic bodies. The selected route is optimized considering the above factors and connectivity between supply source and consumer location.</p>
18	<p>Rare and endangered species found in the area</p> <p>Dadra and Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary is home to Panther, Hyaena, Fox, Wild Cat, four Horned, Antelope, jackal, Sambar, Deer and Chital etc</p>
19	<p>Opinion of the Chief Wild Life Warden</p> <p>The State CWLW has recommended with the condition that the user agency and project personnel will comply with the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and any other conditions that may be applicable.</p>
20	<p>Comments of Ministry</p> <p>The total length of the pipeline passing through the protected area is 3.2046 km. The pipeline shall be laid underground.</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.</p>

GUJARAT

A. Proposal falling inside the protected area

S.No.	F.No.	Name of the Proposal
1.	6-8/2021 WL	Diversion of 10.84 ha of forest land from Wild Ass Sanctuary for laying of 30" dia Crude Oil pipeline (from Mundra, District Kachchh, Gujarat to Rajasthan Refinery at Pachpadra, District Barmer, Rajasthan) along with OFC FP/GJ/Pipeline/4845/2020
2.	6-19/2021 WL	Diversion of 8.0976 Ha of forest land from Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of 8"Ø LPG Pipeline from Kandla-Gorakhpur in (Kandla-Viramgam & Viramgam-HPCL Sardhav) in Kutch & Morbi District, Gujarat. FP/GJ/Pipeline/4850/2020.

(1)

1	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 10.84 ha of forest land from Wild Ass Sanctuary for laying of 30" dia Crude Oil pipeline (from Mundra, District Kachchh, Gujarat to Rajasthan Refinery at Pachpadra, District Barmer, Rajasthan) along with OFC. FP/GJ/Pipeline/4845/2020
2	Name of the protected area involved	Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary
3	File No	6-8/2021 WL
4	Name of the State/UT	Gujarat
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	495371 ha
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion / De-notification	10.8477 ha
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	564.2418 ha in the protected area
8	Status of ESZ if any	Final notified on 1 st October 2018
9	Specific comments w.r.t section 29 to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hindustan petroleum corporation Ltd (HPCL) is setting up a 3 MMTPA refinery cum petro chemical complex at tehsil Pachpadra, district Baramer in Rajasthan in collaboration with the Government of Rajasthan (GOR) through a joint venture company viz M/s HPCL Rajasthan refinery Ltd. (HRPL) The proposal refinery is very crucial to the nation, as this help in casing the oil important burder or the country by utilizing the indigenous Rajasthan crude, Mundra-Barmer crude oil pipeline is also lying to the form of Diesel, Petro and mobile etc, same will be distribution to all the states include Gujarat, Prime Minister of India has kept foundation stone for this project and monitoring it from the centre Govt. for its timely completion. There is no negative impact because the liquefied petroleum gas is bring laid underground & hence is not going to interface physically with environment or wild life many insect and mirco organisms will be disturb due to this project so mitigation plan should meet for minimize.

10	Whether linear / non-linear	Linear
11	Whether EC obtained	No
12	Name of the applicant agency	HPCL RAJASTHAN REFINERY LIMITED
13	Date of submission	31.01.2020
14	Total number of tree to be felled	NA
15	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES
16	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 29.09.2020.	
17	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency In consideration of the requirements of environmental parameters, construction methodologies to be adopted for different terrain encountered en-route, design and engineering factors, availability of logistic support during construction, operation and maintenance of pipeline, various feasible routes were identified by the Consultant M/s. Secon Pvt. Ltd, based on desk study or relevant topographic maps of Survey of India. The study was subsequently supplemented with field reconnaissance and data collection along the feasible routes. Finally the optimum route was arrived at after analyzing the various data and conducting in depth study of topographic maps based on field data. Factors considered for selection of Route While identifying the various alternatives for selection of the optimum route, following factors were considered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pipeline route has been finalized in such a way that minimum forest land, Sanctuary area will be utilized as well as tree cutting will be avoided. • Demand and supply center. • Compliance with environmental regulations • Safety of people and property • Shortest possible pipeline length • Accessibility to pipeline route during construction maintenance and operation • Location of pipeline facilities and access there to • Avoidance of mining, protected and Reserved forest archaeological and other sensitive areas. • Avoidance of areas reserved for planned future development 	

	<p>The Wild Ass Sanctuary is unavoidable therefore Pipeline has been proposed in the corridor of Wild Ass Sanctuary where minimum width of sanctuary is available so that Wild life habitat least disturbed.</p> <p>Based on the above detailed route surveys have been carried out to finalize the exact corridor for laying the pipeline.</p>
18	<p>Rare and endangered species found in the area</p> <p>Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary is home to Indian Wild Ass, Black buck, Chinkara, Striped Hyena, Wolf, Desert Fox, Jackal, Indian marbled toad etc.</p>
19	<p>Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden</p> <p>The State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The user agency shall not violate any regulatory provisions under section-9,17 A, 27,29,30,31 & 32 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. 2. The user agency shall not harm or destroy wildlife habitat including fauna and flora of the sanctuary. 3. The user agency shall ensure that there would be no oil/Gas spillage in the work site and will not create any dumping site within the Protected Area. 4. The user agency will have to prepare a conservation plan relevant to the biological entity affected due to the project and deposit the fund before initiating any work on the land. 5. The user agency shall not use the area for any other work other than the work permitted. 6. The user agency shall not establish any temporary or permanent labour camp in the sanctuary. 7. The user agency or its contractor shall not create any fire places inside the sanctuary. 8. All the material required for the work shall be prepared outside the sanctuary. 9. The work in the sanctuary will be allowed only in the day time from 8 AM to 6 PM. 10. Approval under Forest (conservation) Act, 1980, if required shall be obtained separately for use of forest land. 11. The user agency shall deposit NPV for the user of land of Protected Area as per the existing rates before initiating any work on the land. 12. The user agency shall restore the land in its original form after completion of the work.
20	<p>Comments of Ministry</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.</p>

(2)

1	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 8.0976 Ha of forest land from Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of 8"Ø LPG Pipeline from Kandla-Gorakhpur in (Kandla-Viramgam & Viramgam-HPCL Sardhav) in Kutch & Morbi District, Gujarat. FP/GJ/Pipeline/4850/2020.
2	Name of the protected area involved	Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary
3	File No	6-19/2021 WL
4	Name of the State/UT	Gujarat
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	495371 ha
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion / De-notification	8.0976 Ha
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	564.2418 ha in the protected area
8	Status of ESZ if any	Final notified on 1 st October 2018
9	Specific comments w.r.t section 29 to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The liquefied petroleum gas pipeline from Kandla to Gorakhpur in (Kandla-viramgam & Viramgam HPCL Saradhav) is for the benefit of small & big industries in Kutchh as we know Kutchh has attracted plenty of big industrial houses. After earthquake, the supply of cheap gas will considerably bring down the running cost of industries. Moreover, this liquefied petroleum gas pipeline will also be supplied for domestic purpose on a cheap rate. This gas will be used for human development.• Underground & hence is not going to interface physically with environment or wildlife, but many insect and microorganisms will be disturbed due to this project, so mitigation plan should meet to minimize.
10	Whether linear / non-linear	Linear
11	Whether EC obtained	No

12	Name of the applicant agency	IHB PRIVATE LIMITED
13	Date of submission	31.01.2020
14	Total number of tree to be felled	NA
15	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES
16	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 29.09.2020.	
17	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency <p>In consideration of the requirements of Environmental parameter, constructions methodologies to be adopted for different terrain encountered en-route, design and engineering factors, availability of logistic supports during construction, operation and maintenance of pipeline, various feasible routes were identified by M/s IHB Private Limited based on Desktop Study of relevant topographic maps of survey of India.</p> <p>The study was subsequently supplemented with field reconnaissance and data collection along the feasibility routes. Finally, the optimum route was arrived at, after analyzing the various data and conducting in depth study of topographic maps based on field data.</p> <p>The final route in wild life zone is parallel to existing pipeline corridor of M/s Indian Oil Corporation Limited, so that minimum number of farmers are affected and hence this route is recommended. The final route selected passes through minimum forest land present across various roads and it is not possible to avoid the same as compared to various options.</p> <p>The pipeline route passes across Wildlife Sanctuary (Wild Ass Sanctuary) in Kutch & Morbi, district in State Gujarat.</p> <p>The pipeline will be laid at minimum 1.2 m below ground level and as per the requirement of the authority.</p> <p>The pipeline will be passing through wildlife sanctuary land for about 8.0976 ha of land.</p>	
18	Rare and endangered species found in the area Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary is home to Indian Wild Ass, Black buck, Chinkara, Striped Hyena, Wolf, Desert Fox, Jackal, Indian marbled toad etc.	
19	Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden The State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The user agency shall not violate any regulatory provisions under section- 9,17 A, 27,29,30,31 & 32 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. 2. The user agency shall not harm or destroy wildlife habitat including fauna and flora of the sanctuary. 3. The user agency shall ensure that there would be no oil/Gas spillage in the work site and will not create any dumping site within the Protected Area. 4. The user agency will have to prepare a conservation plan relevant to the biological entity affected due to the project and deposit the fund before initiating any work on the land. 5. The user agency shall not use the area for any other work other than the work permitted. 6. The user agency shall not establish any temporary or permanent labour camp in the sanctuary. 7. The User Agency or his contractor shall not create any fire places inside the sanctuary. 8. All the material required for the wok shall be prepared outside the sanctuary. 9. The work in the sanctuary will be allowed only in the day time from 8 AM to 6 PM. 10. Approval under Forest (conservation) Act, 1980, if required shall be obtained separately for use of forest land. 11. The user agency shall deposit NPV for the user of land of Protected Area as per the existing rates before initiating any work on the allotted land. 12. The user agency shall restore the land in its original form after completion of the work.
20	<p>Comments of Ministry</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.</p>

MAHARASHTRA

A. Proposal falling inside the protected area

S.No.	F.No.	Name of the Proposal
1.	6-141/2020 WL	<p>Proposal for development of Sonwade-1x2.50 MW HPP at warna LBC escape at village-Chandoli Budruk, Tal. Shirala, Dist.Sangli, in favour of Executive Engineer, Kolhapur Irrigation Division (North), Maharashtra. The project site is 0.155 km. aerial distance away from the Core /Critical Tiger habitat of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.</p> <p>FP/MH/HYD/1676/2017</p>

(1)

1	Name of the Proposal	Proposal for development of Sonwade-1x2.50 MW HPP at warna LBC escape at village-Chandoli Budruk, Tal. Shirala, Dist.Sangli, in favour of Executive Engineer, Kolhapur Irrigation Division (North), Maharashtra. The project site is 0.155 km. aerial distance away from the Core /Critical Tiger habitat of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. FP/MH/HYD/1676/2017														
2	Name of the protected area involved	Sahyadri Tiger Reserve														
3	File No.	6-141/2020 WL														
4	Name of the State/UT	Maharashtra														
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice														
6	Area of the protected area	1166 Sq Km														
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion / De-notification	<table><tr><th colspan="4">Division wise details of land</th></tr><tr><th>S.No</th><th>Division Name</th><th>Protected Area Name</th><th>Project Area under Protected Area</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>Kolhapur WL</td><td>Sahyadri Tiger Reserve</td><td>2.0 ha</td></tr></table>			Division wise details of land				S.No	Division Name	Protected Area Name	Project Area under Protected Area	1.	Kolhapur WL	Sahyadri Tiger Reserve	2.0 ha
Division wise details of land																
S.No	Division Name	Protected Area Name	Project Area under Protected Area													
1.	Kolhapur WL	Sahyadri Tiger Reserve	2.0 ha													
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	NA														
8	Status of ESZ if any	Proposal forwarded to WII for comments, which is awaited.														
9	Specific comments w.r.t section 29 to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972	The proposed project area is located within the buffer zone inside the boundary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve and within the proposed Eco-sensitive area of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. The project site is 0.155 km. aerial distance away from the Core /Critical Tiger habitat of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. The project shall operate in an area where 2 projects of 20 MW capacity already exist.														

		This project will not cause any additional destruction to wildlife in the National Park as 2 similar projects are already operating in the area. The water from Chandoli dam coming in the canal will be used for Hydro Power generation & it will be transferred in grid to MSEDCL.
10	Whether linear / non-linear	Non Linear
11	Whether EC obtained	No
12	Name of the applicant agency	Executive Engineer Kolhapur Irrigation Division North
13	Date of submission	16/09/2019
14	Total number of tree to be felled	Nil
15	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES
16	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 7 th August 2020.	
17	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency Sonawade-II (1x2.50 MW) SHEP, proposed at Warna left bank canal escape is planned to utilize some surplus water during releases in to the Escape in addition to the substantial spill water going to the river unharnessed, from existing Warna left bank canal escape of Chandoli dam over an area of 2.00 ha on non-forest land of village-chandoli Budruk, Taluka-Shirala, district-Sangli. The area has been acquired for the irrigation project and falls within buffer of peripheral area at an aerial distance of 0.493 Km inside the boundary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, through the private sector participation as per the State Hydel Policy declared by Government of Maharashtra. All other alternate, for the purpose have been explored and no suitable alternate non forest land is available for purpose of the said proposal. The proposed Project land belongs to Irrigation Department, Government of Maharashtra. The Techno economic feasibility report of project is approved by (GoM) Water Resources Department, Mantralaya Mumbai by its letter No.HEP-2014(68/2014) HP dated 22.07.2016.	
18	Rare and endangered species found in the area	

	Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is home to Tiger, Wild dogs, Gaur, Sambar, Barking deer, Mouse deer, Giant Squirrels, Porcupines, Crocodiles etc.
19	<p>Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden</p> <p>The State CWLW has recommended with the condition that the project proponents shall deposit 2% of the cost of proposed project (Rs.1261 lakhs) with the Conservator of Forest & Field Director, Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Kolhapur for the habitat improvement of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Kolhapur and adjoining forests.</p>
20	<p>Comments of Ministry</p> <p>NTCA has recommended the proposal vide letter no.7-8/2021-NTCA dated 24th March 2021 with the conditions laid down by Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra.</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.</p>

SIKKIM

B. Proposal falling inside the protected area

S.No.	F.No.	Name of the Proposal
1.	6-27/2021 WL	Diversion of 0.95 Ha of Forest Land for the establishment of One Border Out Post on Indo Bhutan Border at AP Salami inside Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary, East Sikkim by 69th Bn SSB.
2	6-28/2021 WL	Diversion of 0.98 Ha. of Forest Land for the establishment of one Border Out Post on Indo Bhutan Border at Denchukla inside Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary inside, East Sikkim by 69th Bn SSB.

(1)

1	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 0.95 Ha of Forest Land for the establishment of One Border Out Post on Indo Bhutan Border at AP Salami inside Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary, East Sikkim by 69th Bn SSB.																																	
2	Name of the protected area involved	Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary																																	
3	File No	6-27/2021 WL																																	
4	Name of the State/UT	Sikkim																																	
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice																																	
6	Area of the protected area	128 Sq Km																																	
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion / De-notification	<p>0.95 ha. The purpose wise breakup of land required is shown as under:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S.No.</th><th>Purpose</th><th>Area (in ha)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>i.</td><td>Area required or construction of accommodation for Coy Commander office along with necessary outer space</td><td>0.04</td></tr> <tr> <td>ii.</td><td>Area required for Construction of accommodation for Coy Commander residence along with necessary outer space</td><td>0.04</td></tr> <tr> <td>iii.</td><td>Area required for Construction of accommodation for QG/QM Store/Kote along with necessary outer space</td><td>0.04</td></tr> <tr> <td>iv.</td><td>Area required for Construction of accommodation for Kitchen Cum Dining hall along with necessary outer space</td><td>0.04</td></tr> <tr> <td>v.</td><td>Area required for Construction of accommodation for Jawans Barrack alongwith necessary outer space</td><td>0.04</td></tr> <tr> <td>vi.</td><td>Area required for Construction of water storage tank alongwith Sufficient space for bathing points</td><td>0.02</td></tr> <tr> <td>vii.</td><td>Area required for MT Parking</td><td>0.260</td></tr> <tr> <td>viii.</td><td>Providing defense Morcha for all round defense</td><td>0.373</td></tr> <tr> <td>ix</td><td>Unforeseen use due to landscape</td><td>0.092</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Total</td><td>0.95</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Total area required = 0.95 ha.</p>	S.No.	Purpose	Area (in ha)	i.	Area required or construction of accommodation for Coy Commander office along with necessary outer space	0.04	ii.	Area required for Construction of accommodation for Coy Commander residence along with necessary outer space	0.04	iii.	Area required for Construction of accommodation for QG/QM Store/Kote along with necessary outer space	0.04	iv.	Area required for Construction of accommodation for Kitchen Cum Dining hall along with necessary outer space	0.04	v.	Area required for Construction of accommodation for Jawans Barrack alongwith necessary outer space	0.04	vi.	Area required for Construction of water storage tank alongwith Sufficient space for bathing points	0.02	vii.	Area required for MT Parking	0.260	viii.	Providing defense Morcha for all round defense	0.373	ix	Unforeseen use due to landscape	0.092		Total	0.95
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ix	Unforeseen use due to landscape	0.092																																	
	Total	0.95																																	

7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	Name of Project	Area diverted	Year of diversion
		Hathichirey SSB Outpost	01.00 ha	2013
		Jawala SSB Outpost	01.00 ha	2012
		Tri- junction Bheem Base to Dokala (Northern 18.16 Ha 2009 alignment)	18.16 ha	2009
		Flag Hill to Dokala (Southern Alignment)	60.00 ha	2005
		Border Outpost at Lingtam	01.00 ha	2010
		Kupup to Tn junction	07.60 ha	2013
		Penengla Road by BRO	06.00 ha	2010
8	Status of ESZ if any	Final notified on 27 th August, 2014		
9	Specific comments w.r.t section 29 to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972	Since, it is matter of defence in the International Border with China, it is strategically important.		
10	Whether linear / non-linear	Non-linear		
11	Whether EC obtained	-		
12	Name of the applicant agency	69 th Battalion Sashastra Seema Bal Rhenock (East Sikkim)		
13	Date of submission	4.12.2020		
14	Total number of tree to be felled	NA		
15	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES		
16	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 25.11.2020.			
17	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency One BOP (Border Out Post) under 69 Bn. SSB Rhenock has to be established at “Salami” where the identified land is falling under Wildlife Forest Department. Also no other suitable land is available at “Salami” other than the Forest land. The identified land is also very much suitable from operational & strategic point of view.			
18	Rare and endangered species found in the area Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary is home to red panda (Ailurus fulgens), leopard (Panthera pardus), kalij pheasants (Lophurs leucomelana) and himalayan vulture and important fauna such as the himalayan black bear (Selenarctos thebetanus), jungle cat (Felis chaus), flying squirrels, fox (Vulpes bengalensis), goral (Nemorhaedus spp), wild pig (Susscrofa), musk Deer (Moschus moschiferus), Indian			

	bison etc. The sanctuary is also well known for its butterfly and moth like black veins (Aporia agathonagathon), Bhutan glory (Bhutanitis lidderdalu lidderdalli) etc.
19	<p>Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden</p> <p>The State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the conditions imposed by the State Board for Wildlife:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The user agency has to ensure that as far as possible the biodiversity of the area should not be damaged and there should be sensitization of the army personals at all level regarding the protection and conservation of the natural habitat of the area. 2. The SSB should install Bio Digesters can help to mitigate the sewage waste problem. 3. Waste water should not flow into the wetlands and waterbodies. 4. No unusual naming of the natural area like lakes and peaks and mountains etc which are not in the interest of local community. 5. No construction of religious structures 6. No defacing of rocks. 7. Proper stone boundary demarcation of the diverted area. 8. The area is a home to the Himalayan Black Bear and any case of Man-animal conflict arising in that area due to throwing of food waste, improper disposal of garbage, food godowns should be borne by the SSB since the cost of trapping, tranquilizing of wild animals is expensive. 9. No works should be started in field before prior clearance under FCA, 1980.
20	<p>Comments of Ministry</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.</p>

(2)

1	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 0.98 Ha. of Forest Land for the establishment of one Border Out Post on Indo Bhutan Border at Denchukla inside Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary inside, East Sikkim by 69th Bn SSB.		
2	Name of the protected area involved	Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary		
3	File No	6-28/2021 WL		
4	Name of the State	Sikkim		
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice		
6	Area of the protected area	128 Sq Km		
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion / De-notification	0.98 ha The purpose wise breakup of land required is shown as under:		
		S.No.	Purpose	Area (in ha)
		i.	Area required for construction of accommodation for Coy Commander office along with necessary outer space.	0.04
		ii	Area required for Construction of accommodation for Coy Commander residence along with necessary outer space	0.04
		iii	Area required for Construction of accommodation for QG/QM Store/Kote along with necessary outer space	0.04
		iv	Area required for Construction of accommodation for Kitchen Cum Dining hall along with necessary outer space	0.04
		v	Area required for Construction of accommodation for Jawans Barrack along with necessary outer space	0.04
		vi	Area required for Construction of water storage tank along with sufficient space for bathing points.	0.25
		vii	Area required for MT Parking.	0.275
		viii	Providing defence Morcha for all round defence.	0.385
		ix	Unforeseen use due to landscape.	0.095
		Total area required = 0.98 ha		

7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	Name of Project	Area diverted	Year of diversion
		Hathichirey SSB Outpost	01.00 ha	2013
		Jawala SSB Outpost	01.00 ha	2012
		Tri- junction Bheem Base to Dokala (Northern 18.16 Ha 2009 alignment)	18.16 ha	2009
		Flag Hill to Dokala (Southern Alignment)	60.00 ha	2005
		Border Outpost at Lingtam	01.00 ha	2010
		Kupup to Tn junction	07.60 ha	2013
		Penengla Road by BRO	06.00 ha	2010
8	Status of ESZ if any	Final notified on 27 th August, 2014		
9	Specific comments w.r.t section 29 to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972	Since, it is matter of defense in the International Border with China, it is strategically important.		
10	Whether linear / non-linear	Non-linear		
11	Whether EC- obtained			
12	Name of the applicant agency	69 th Battalion Sashastra Seema Bal Rhenock (East Sikkim)		
13	Date of submission	4.12.2020		
14	Total number of tree to be felled	NA		
15	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES		
16	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 25.11.2020.			
17	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency One BOP (Border Out Post) under 69 Bn. SSB Rhenock has to be established at “Dengchukla” where the identified land is falling under Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary. Also no other suitable land is available at “Dengchukla” other than the Forest land. The identified land is also very much suitable from operational & strategic point of view.			

18	<p>Rare and endangered species found in the area</p> <p>Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary is home to red panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>), leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>), kalij pheasants (<i>Lophurs leucomelana</i>) and himalayan vulture and important fauna such as the himalayan black bear (<i>Selenarctos thebetanus</i>), jungle cat (<i>Felis chaus</i>), flying squirrels, fox (<i>Vulpes bengalensis</i>), goral (<i>Nemorhaedus spp</i>), wild pig (<i>Susscrofa</i>), musk Deer (<i>Moschus moschiferus</i>), Indian bison etc. The sanctuary is also well known for its butterfly and moth like black veins (<i>Aporia agathonagathon</i>), Bhutan glory (<i>Bhutanitis lidderdalu lidderdalli</i>) etc.</p>
19	<p>Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden</p> <p>The State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the conditions imposed by the State Board for Wildlife:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The user agency has to ensure that as far as possible the biodiversity of the area should not be damaged and there should be sensitization of the army personnel at all level regarding the protection and conservation of the natural habitat of the area. 2. The SSB should install Bio Digesters to mitigate the sewage waste problem. 3. Waste water should not flow into the wetlands and water bodies. 4. No unusual naming of the natural area like lakes and peaks and mountains etc which are not in the interest of local community. 5. No defacing of rocks. 6. Proper stone boundary demarcation of the diverted area. 7. The area is a home to the Himalayan Black Bear and Man-animal conflict arising in that area due to throwing of food waste, improper disposal of garbage, food godowns. Such disposals should be managed with proper management plan. 8. No works should be started in field before prior clearance under FCA, 1980.
20	<p>Comments of Ministry</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.</p>

WEST BENGAL

A. Proposal falling inside the protected area

S.No.	F.No.	Name of the Proposal
1.	6-41/2021 WL	<p>Diversion of 1.5278 ha of forest land from Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of Sivok Rangpo New BG Rail Line project of North East Frontier Railway</p> <p>FP/WB/RAIL/40708/2019</p>

(1)

1	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 1.5278 ha of forest land from Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of Sivok Rangpo New BG Rail Line project of North East Frontier Railway FP/WB/RAIL/40708/2019
2	Name of the protected area involved	Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary
3	File No	6-41/2021 WL
4	Name of the State	West Bengal
5	Whether proposal is sub-judice	Not sub-judice
6	Area of the protected area	161.17 sq. km
7(a)	Area proposed for diversion / De-notification	1.5278 ha
7(b)	Area so far diverted from the protected area(s)	NA
8	Status of ESZ if any	Final Notification issued on 22.09.2020
9	Specific comments w.r.t section 29 to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972	There is no other best alternative route available for alignment to Rangpo. This is the only minimum possible way. Works can be executed after taking proper measures so that minimum disturbance happens in the area. No forest produce should be removed by the User Agency in the Project area falling under Forest Wildlife Areas.
10	Whether linear / non-linear	Linear
11	Whether EC obtained	No
12	Name of the applicant agency	NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
13	Date of submission	18/06/2019
14	Total number of tree to be felled	Nil
15	Maps depicting the Sanctuary and the diversion proposal included or not	YES
16	Recommendation of State Board for Wildlife	Recommendations of the State Board for Wild Life have not been provided.
17	Brief justification on the proposal as given by the applicant agency	

	<p>The starting station Sivok is on the already existing broad-gauge railway line on the Delhi Guwahati route. Sivok itself is in forest wildlife area and the onward connectivity toward Rangpo has to go through the forest area in absence of non-forest area in the vicinity. Hence it is imperative to acquire the forest land. In order to minimize the forest losses, the alignment has been planned mostly through tunnels. Almost the entire track runs through tunnel thereby involving no loss of forest except at portals, bridges and for station yards.</p>
18	<p>Rare and endangered species found in the area Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary is home to Himalayan Black Bears, Tiger, Leopard, Gaur, Barking Deer, Wild Pigs, Elephants etc.</p>
19	<p>Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden The Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the condition that the sufficient precautions should be taken to avoid any kind of accident to wildlife and damage to wildlife habitat.</p>
20	<p>Comments of Ministry:</p> <p>Proposal for survey for construction of new broad gauge railway line by North Frontier Railways from Sevoke in West Bengal to Rangpo at Sikkim over 32.586 ha within Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, West Bengal was recommended by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 28th meeting held on 20th March 2013.</p> <p>The proposal for diversion of 86.6255 ha (18.604 ha. under Darjeeling Forest Division+12.3436 ha. under Kurseong Forest Division +8.8489 ha under Wildlife-I Division+46.829 ha under Kalimpong Forest Division) of forest land for construction of Sevoke Rangpo New Broad Gauge Railway line, West Bengal was recommended by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 34th meeting of SC-NBWL held on 2nd June 2015.</p> <p>The present proposal is for construction of adit tunnel (865 m) and approach road (320 m). Being a linear project, animal passage plan and the recommendations of the State Board for Wild Life have been requested from the State Government and the same are yet to be provided.</p> <p>The Standing Committee may like to take a view on the proposal.</p>

AGENDA NO.6

Any other item with the permission of the Chair



F.No.6-16/2021 WL
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Wildlife Division)

2nd Floor, Jal Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
JorBagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi 110003
Date: 08.03.2021

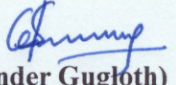
To
All Members
Standing Committee of NBWL

Sub: Minutes of 61st Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life- reg.

Sir / Madam,

Kindly find enclosed copy of the Minutes of 61st Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 18th February, 2021 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

Yours faithfully,


(Surender Gugloth)
Scientist 'D'

Email: ddwlmef@gmail.com

Encl: As above

Distribution

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

Copy to

- (1) PS to Hon'ble MoEF&CC
- (2) PS to Hon'ble MoSEF&CC
- (3) PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
- (4) PSO to Addl.DGF(WL), Sr.PPS to IGF(WL)
- (5) Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Forest Department, Assam, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana.
- (6) CWLW Assam / CWLW Andaman & Nicobar Islands / CWLW Jammu & Kashmir / CWLW Kerala / CWLW Rajasthan / CWLW Uttarakhand / CWLW Gujarat / CWLW Uttar Pradesh / CWLW Madhya Pradesh / CWLW Tamil Nadu / CWLW Telangana.

MINUTES OF 61st MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL BOARD FOR WILD LIFE HELD ON 18th FEBRUARY, 2021

The 61st Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life was held on 18th February, 2021 through Video Conference and chaired by the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change. List of participants is placed at **ANNEXURE-I**.

The Chairman welcomed all the participants to the 61st Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life and asked the Member Secretary to initiate the discussions on the Agenda Items.

AGENDA ITEM No.1

61.1.1 Confirmation of the minutes of the 60th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 5th January, 2021.

The Member Secretary stated that the minutes of the 60th meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 5th January, 2021 were circulated on 22nd January, 2021 amongst all the Members of the Standing Committee. No comments have been received on the minutes of the meeting from the members.

Decision Taken: Based on the discussion held, the Standing Committee decided to confirm the minutes of the 60th meeting.

AGENDA ITEM No.2

(Action Taken Report)

61.2.1 Proposal for use of 98.59 ha of reserve forestland from Saleki proposed reserve forest which is a part of Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve for Tikok OCP coal mining project by North-Eastern Coal Field, Coal India Limited, Assam State (Original Agenda – 54.4.3).

The Member Secretary stated that the Standing Committee in its 60th meeting decided to give extension of time up to 31.01.2021 for the enquiry team to submit its report and informed that a report has been received from the DDG, IRO, Shillong on 17.02.2021 and requires examination.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing committee decided that Ministry shall examine the report submitted by the DDG, Shillong and therefore, deferred the matter.

61.2.2 Proposal for collection river bed materials from an area 10.0 ha located at Sajjanpur Village, Haridwar falls at distance of 9.0 km away from the boundary of Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand State (Original Agenda – 54.4.27)

61.2.3 Proposal for collection river bed materials from an area 55.51 ha located at Satiwal, Kudkawala, Teliwala and Kheri, falls at distance of 1.5 km away from the boundary of Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand State (Original Agenda – 55.4.21)

The Member Secretary stated that the Standing Committee in the 60th Meeting held on 5th January, 2021 decided to defer the proposals till the receipt of comments from NMCG and compliance certificate with respect to the Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 and the same are still awaited.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to delist the proposals.

61.2.4 Proposal for use of 6.704 ha of reserve forestland from Pilibhit Tiger Reserve for Mailani-Pilibhit Gauge Conversion chainage 212.520-213.070 KM and 242.310-250.140 KM (8.38 KM) between Kuriya-Dudhiyakhurd and Sandai Mala, Uttar Pradesh State-FP/UP/RAIL/4257/2019.

The member secretary stated that the Standing Committee in the 60th meeting decided to constitute a team comprising of representative of WII, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and Uttar Pradesh Forest Department to study the site and suggest mitigation measures within two months' time. The Ministry has constituted the committee vide F. No. 6-4 /2020 WL dated 09.02.2021.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to defer the matter.

61.2.5 Construction of Campierganj Branch Canal in between km.51 to 62.106 under Saryu Nahar Pariyojna in District: Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh.

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for use of 21.864 ha land for construction of Campierganj Branch Canal in between km.51 to 62.106 under Saryu Nahar Pariyojna in District: Maharajganj. The Standing Committee in the 60th meeting desired that due to the importance of protected area for its biodiversity and presence of wild animals like tiger, the Standing Committee desired that a study might be conducted by the NTCA and report submitted within a month. The Ministry has

requested the NTCA to conduct the study vide F.No.6-171/2020 WL dated 09.02.2021 and submit report within a month's time.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee to defer the matter.

61.2.6 Issue of Upgradation of Laldhang to Chillakhal road in buffer zone of Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand.

The Member Secretary briefed that the Standing Committee in the 60th meeting decided to constitute a committee comprising of representatives of NTCA, WII, NHAI and Government of Uttarakhand to look into the issue and suggest mitigation measures. Ministry has constituted the committee vide F.No.6-145/2019 WL dated 12.02.2021.

Decision taken: After discussions, the standing committee decided to defer the matter.

AGENDA ITEM No. 3

(Policy Matters, Court Orders/Rationalization of Boundaries of Protected Areas)

61.3.1 Guidelines on Ecotourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas 2021

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that these Guidelines are aimed at promoting better understanding of nature and wildlife conservation while generating income and opportunities for the local communities in an ecologically, culturally and economically sustainable manner. The objectives of these Guidelines include promotion of low impact nature tourism, traditional ecological knowledge and heritage values of India's wilderness, engagement of local communities in nature tourism, partnerships amongst various stakeholders and finally enhancing potential of India as a global eco-tourism destination. He further stated that the FC Division of the Ministry felt the need to examine the Guidelines further with respect to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to defer the matter.

61.3.2 Rationalisation of Band Baretha Sanctuary, Bharatpur, Rajasthan

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the Band Baretha Sanctuary was notified on 5th October, 1985. The total area of the sanctuary at present is 19830.73 ha.

The State Government proposes to alter the boundaries of the Sanctuary by removing the Bansi Pahadpur Block A and B, Kot Block and Sookha Shila Block, which are disjointed and already ravaged, from the sanctuary to the tune of 2785.5 ha and adding forest blocks Pahadtali, Mevala, Banswari, Jamoora Timkoli in Karauli District to the tune of 19785.5 ha. After rationalisation, the area of the sanctuary will increase by 17000 ha and the final area of the sanctuary will be 36830.73 ha.

Dr. H.S. Singh, Member stated that a study should be conducted to assess the impact of the proposed alteration of boundaries. The Member Secretary explained that the WII has carried out a survey of the area and recommended rationalisation of the boundaries. Dr. Singh expressed his acceptance of the proposal in view of the explanation provided by ADG(WL).

Decision Taken: After discussion the standing committee decided to recommend the proposal.

AGENDA No. 4.

61.4.1 Amendments in minutes of meeting of SC-NBWL

The member secretary stated that the Standing Committee, in its 58th meeting held on 3rd July, 2020, recommended the proposal of Ujh Multipurpose Project, Jammu and Kashmir in the ESZ of Jasrota Sanctuary. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir vide letter no. FST/Parivesh/05/2020 dated 20.11.2020 has informed that it was mentioned in the minutes of the meeting that the Chief Wild Life Warden recommended the proposal without any conditions although the Chief Wild Life Warden had recommended the project with the conditions as approved/cleared by the Standing Committee of the State Board for Wild Life which were mentioned in the annexure to the agenda for the meeting of the Standing Committee of the State Board for Wild Life.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to amend the minutes of the 58th meeting to include conditions as imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden with respect to recommendations made for the Ujh Multipurpose Project.

The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

The Chairman directed that the matter as to why the documents uploaded by the UT of Jammu and Kashmir in PARIVESH are not seen would be discussed in the next meeting.

AGENDA No.5

(Fresh Proposals Falling Inside / Outside the Protected Area)

61.5.1 Proposal for temporary use of 0.7539 ha of PA land and 0.1911 ha of Reserved forest land falling within Notional ESZ of Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Wandoor for laying of sub-marine pipeline from RM Point, Rutland Island to Phongibalu, South Andaman Island across McPherson Strait for augmentation of potable water supply in the Port Blair township. (File No.6-29/2021 WL; CWLW/WL/170/538).

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for use of 0.7539 ha of PA land and 0.1911 ha of Reserved forest land falling within Notional ESZ of Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Wandoor for laying of sub-marine pipeline from RM Point, Rutland Island to Phongibalu, South Andaman Island across McPherson Strait for augmentation of potable water supply in the Port Blair township. He further stated that the project outside the protected area does not require environment clearance and, therefore, the mandate of the Standing Committee is to consider the project falling inside the National Park only.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the project falling in Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden:

1. Vessels/boats used for execution of the project, should use the approved route for navigation and no boat should anchor on the reef areas.
2. The legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain the same.
3. The project authority should take necessary permission from Chief Wildlife Warden/Park Manager for the officials/staff and workers of the contractor before entering into the National Park.
4. No effluent or domestic sewage (liquid or. solid waste) shall be disposed into the sea or nearby forest areas, by the user agency.
5. The user agency will ensure that the natural drainages of the locality are not disturbed due to the construction and the dugout soil are stabilized in a proper way.

- B. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

61.5.2 Proposal for diversion of 0.9613 ha of forest land from Saddle Peak National Park for augmentation of water supply by construction of weir and laying pipeline from Tambunallah towards existing pipeline near source no.1 at Dumornallah, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. (File. No 6-32/2021 WL; CWLW/WL/170/538).

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for diversion of 0.9613 ha of forest land from Saddle Peak National Park for augmentation of water supply by construction of weir and laying pipeline from Tambunallah towards existing pipeline near source no.1 at Dumornallah, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden:

- 1. The project proponent shall submit the names of the staff/workers engaged in the project to the Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife), Mayabunder before commencement of the work.
- 2. Kindling of fire inside the PA is prohibited.
- 3. No person should carry any weapons/ammunitions/explosives etc. which may endanger the life of Wildlife while entering the national Park during the constructional and operational phase of the project.
- B. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

61.5.3 Replacement of both offshore pipelines from Narara bet to Single Point Moorings (SPMs) & interconnecting loop line between SPMs, Replacing & Relocating Pipe Line End Manifold (PLEM) and Installation of SPM buoy at Vadinar, Gujarat. (6-5/2021 WL; FP/GJ/Pipeline/42481/2019).

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for replacement of both offshore pipelines from Narara bet to Single Point Moorings (SPMs) & interconnecting loop line between SPMs, Replacing & Relocating Pipe Line End Manifold (PLEM) and

Installation of SPM buoy at Vadinar, Gujarat. Proposed area falls under Marine National Park, Marine Sanctuary and Eco-sensitive Zone. The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden

1. The User Agency shall not violate any regulatory provisions under Section-9, 17A, 27, 29, 30, 31 32 of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
2. The User agency shall not harm or destroy wildlife habitat including fauna and flora of the Sanctuary. The coral along the pipeline will have to be relocated at the cost of the company to a suitable nearby place under supervision of the Forest Department,
3. The User Agency shall have to bear the cost of double the area of Mangrove plantation for all the Mangroves that would be effected due to the pipeline.
4. The User Agency shall ensure that there would be no oil spillage in the work site and will not create any dumping site within the Protected Area.
5. The user agency will have to prepare a conservation plan relevant to the biological entity affected due to the project and deposit the fund before initiating any work on the land.
6. The User Agency shall not use the area for any other work other than the work permitted.
7. The User Agency shall not establish any temporary or permanent labour camp in the Protected Area.
8. The User Agency or his contractor shall not create any fire places inside the Protected Area.
9. All the material required for the work shall be prepared outside the Protected Area.
10. The work in the Sanctuary will be allowed only in the day time considering the local tidal effects.
11. Approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, if required, shall be obtained separately for use of forest land.
12. The User Agency shall deposit NPV for the use of land of Protected Area as per the existing rates before initiating any work on the land.

13. The User Agency shall restore the land in its original form after completion of the work.
- B. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

61.5.4 Widening & Strengthening Four lane of Bilimora Chikhli Vansda Waghai Road Ch. Km. 53+400 to 59+600 passing through Vansda National Park for 6.2 km (6-11/2021 WL; FP/GJ/ROAD/4303/2019).

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for widening & strengthening Bilimora Chikhli Vansda Waghai Road passing through Vansda National Park to four lane.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden:

1. The User Agency shall not violate any regulatory provisions under section 9, 17A, 27, 29, 30 31 and 32 of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. The User Agency shall not harm or destroy wildlife habitat including fauna and flora of the National Park.
3. The User Agency shall not use the area for the proposed work other than the area permitted.
4. The User Agency shall not establish any temporary or permanent labour camp in the National Park.
5. The User Agency or his contractor shall not create any fire places inside the National Park.
6. All the material required for the work shall be prepared outside the National Park.
7. The Work in the National Park will be allowed only in the day time from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
8. Approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, if required, shall be obtained separately for use of forest land.
9. The User Agency shall deposit NPV for the use of land of Protected Area as per the existing rates.
10. The User Agency shall create a speed breaker at a distance of every 500 meters and put signage to observe speed limit of 30 km per hour at suitable interval.
11. The User Agency shall prepare Wildlife Mitigation Plan and get it approved from Chief Wild Life Warden before start of the work. The budget for the same should be made available separately.

- B. User Agency has proposed animal passage and mitigation plan for Rs. 4 cr. The details of culverts provided for animal passage are as follows:

Sr. No.	Type	Chainage	Geo-Coordinate	
			Latitude	Longitude
1	Single Pipe Culvert	53+550	20°45'19"N	73°26'07"E
2	Slab Culvert	53+910	20°45'15"N	73°26'18"E
3	Box Culvert	54+390	20°45'16"N	73°26'34"E
4	Box Culvert	54+460	20°45'17"N	73°26'37"E
5	Box Culvert	54+570	20°45'17"N	73°26'40"E
6	Box Culvert	55+210	20°45'18"N	73°27'02"E
7	Single Row Pipe Culvert	55+430	20°45'19"N	73°27'10"E
8	Loose Pipe Single Culvert	55+660	20°45'19"N	73°27'18"E
9	Single Row Pipe Culvert	55+775	20°45'19"N	73°27'21"E
10	Box Culvert (Single Cell)	55+910	20°45'20"N	73°27'25"E
11	Single Pipe Culvert	56+220	20°45'23"N	73°27'35"E
12	Box Culvert	56+300	20°45'23"N	73°27'38"E
13	Single Row Pipe Culvert	56+630	20°45'27"N	73°27'51"E
14	Single Row Pipe Culvert	57+000	20°45'29"N	73°28'01"E
15	Single Row Pipe Culvert	57+230	20°45'32"N	73°28'08"E
16	Single Row Pipe Culvert	57+470	20°45'35"N	73°28'15"E
17	Single Row Pipe Culvert	57+600	20°45'36"N	73°28'18"E

The project proponent shall implement the animal passage plan submitted *in toto*.

- C. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

61.5.5 Forest land diversion proposal (between km 13+500 to Km 130+073) of proposed new NH-754K greenfield alignment Sanchore-Santalpur section (EC-3) starting from Vantdau in Banaskantha district to Ranmalpura in Patan district, from km 4+888 to km 130+073. (6-15/2021 WL; FP/GJ/ROAD/34425/2018).

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for use of 2.617 ha land between km 13+500 to Km 130+073 of proposed new NH-754K greenfield alignment Sanchore-Santalpur section (EC-3) starting from Vantdau in Banaskantha district to Ranmalpura in Patan district, from km 4+888 to km 130+073. Due to increase in traffic and to enhance connectivity with other National Highway, the existing road is required to be widened to 4 lane configuration on/along existing alignment and new (greenfield) alignment is required.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden:

1. The User Agency shall not violate any regulatory provisions under section 9, 17A, 27, 29, 30 31 and 32 of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. The User Agency shall not harm or destroy wildlife habitat including fauna and flora of the Sanctuary.
3. The User Agency shall not use the area for any other work than the work permitted.
4. The User Agency shall not establish any temporary or permanent labour camp in the Sanctuary.
5. The User Agency will have a conservation plan relevant to the biological entity affected due to the project and deposit the fund before initiating any work on the land.
6. The User Agency or his contractor shall not create any fire places inside the Sanctuary.
7. All the material required for the work shall be prepared outside the Sanctuary.
8. The Work in the Sanctuary will be allowed only in the day time from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
9. Approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, if required, shall be obtained separately for use of forest land.
10. The User Agency shall deposit NPV for the use of land of Protected Area as per the existing rates before initiating any work on the land.
11. The User Agency will create adequate facilities for safe transit of wildlife across the road.

- B. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

61.5.6 Proposal of diversion of 9.749 ha of forest land Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of 765 kV D/C Lakadia to Banaskantha Transmission Line, Gujarat. (6-33/2021 WL; FP/GJ/TRANS/43664/2019).

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for use of 9.749 ha in Wild Ass Sanctuary for construction of 765 kV D/C Lakadia to Banaskantha Transmission Line, Gujarat. The project will facilitate evacuation of renewable energy generating from Bhuj, Dwarka and Lakadia area thereby increase in productivity in industrial sector and improve green energy.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden:

1. The user agency shall not violate any regulatory provisions under section-9,17 A, 27,29,30,31 & 32 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. The user agency shall not harm or destroy wildlife habitat including fauna and flora of the sanctuary.
3. The user agency shall not use the area for any other work other than the work permitted
4. The user agency shall not establish any temporary or permanent labour camp in the sanctuary.
5. The User Agency or his contractor shall not create any fire places inside the sanctuary
6. The user agency will have to prepare a conservation plan relevant to the biological entity affected due to the project and deposit the fund before initiating any work on the land.
7. All the material required for the wok shall be prepared outside the sanctuary.
8. The work in the sanctuary will be allowed only in the day time from 8 AM to 6 PM.
9. Approval under Forest (conservation) Act, 1980, if required shall be obtained separately for use of forest land.
10. The user agency shall deposit NPV for the user of land of Protected Area as per the existing rates before initiating any work on the land.
11. The user agency shall install adequate number of Bird diverters along the transmission line.

- B. The project proponent has submitted the animal passage plan which is placed at **ANNEXURE-II**. The project proponent shall implement the animal passage plan *in toto*. The project proponent shall use the bird diverters as per the designs and specifications approved by the Central Electricity Authority.
- C. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

61.5.7 Proposal of diversion of 30.81 ha from Wild Ass Sanctuary for construction of 765 KV D/C Lakadia-Vadodara Transmission line, Gujarat. (6-35/2021 WL; FP/GJ/TRANS/43086/2019).

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for use of 30.81 ha from Wild Ass Sanctuary for construction of 765 KV D/C Lakadia-Vadodara Transmission line, Gujarat. The line passes through Kutch, Morbi, Surendranagar, Ahmedabad, Kheda, Anand & Vadodara Districts of Gujarat. The project proposal area falls in wild Ass Sanctuary. The project will facilitate evacuation of renewable energy generating from Bhuj, Dwarka and Lakadia area thereby increase in productivity in industrial sector and improve green energy.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden:

- 1. The user agency shall not violate any regulatory provisions under section-9,17 A, 27,29,30,31 & 32 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- 2. The user agency shall not harm or destroy wildlife habitat including fauna and flora of the sanctuary.
- 3. The user agency shall not use the area for any other work other than the work permitted
- 4. The user agency shall not establish any temporary or permanent labour camp in the sanctuary.
- 5. The User Agency or his contractor shall not create any fire places inside the sanctuary
- 6. The user agency will have to prepare a conservation plan relevant to the biological entity affected due to the project and deposit the fund before initiating any work on the land.
- 7. All the material required for the work shall be prepared outside the sanctuary.
- 8. The work in the sanctuary will be allowed only in the day time from 8 AM to 6 PM.

9. Approval under Forest (conservation) Act, 1980, if required shall be obtained separately for use of forest land.
 10. The user agency shall deposit NPV for the user of land of Protected Area as per the existing rates before initiating any work on the allotted land.
 11. The user agency shall install adequate number of bird diverters along the transmission line.
- B. The animal passage plan submitted by the User Agency is placed as **ANNEXURE-III**. The project proponent shall implement the animal passage plan submitted *in toto*. The project proponent shall use the bird diverters as per the designs and specifications approved by the Central Electricity Authority.
 - C. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

61.5.8 Proposal for Shahpur Kandi Dam Project, Jammu & Kashmir (6-26/2021 WL; FP/JK/HYD/5444/2020).

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal for Shahpur Kandi Dam Project, Jammu & Kashmir. Shahpurkandi Dam Project is located in the Ravi river terrain in Pathankot District of Punjab State. The excess water of the River Ravi at present is going waste through the Madhopur Headworks downstream to Pakistan. Implementation of the project would minimize such wastage of water. The proposed site for construction of Shahpurkandi Dam is strategically located on the Ravi river because the particular stretch is narrow on the said location There is no other possible alternative to avoid the submergence of the protected area in the Shahpurkandi Dam Reservoir. Therefore, wildlife clearance for 51.08 ha land falling under the Conservation Reserve has been submitted by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden:

1. The proprietary and the legal status of the land shall remain.
2. The User Agency shall pay NPV (Net Present Value) in accordance with the orders of the Hon'be Supreme court.

3. The User Agency shall be responsible for obtaining requisite clearances under any other law in vogue.
4. No harm to any wildlife species shall be done if found accidentally in the said area.
5. User Agency shall abide by all the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, directions of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and orders of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir in this regard.
6. Waste material including muck generated during execution of project shall be disposed of outside the protected area.
7. The area proposed should not be used by the user agency for any purpose other than proposed.
8. The land so allowed to be used shall be returned to the department free of any encumbrances when it is no longer required by the User Agency.
9. The user agency shall have to abide by all the conditions laid down in the sanction order issued by the Competent Authority.
- B. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

61.5.9 Proposal to construct a bridge at Kumbichalkadavu in Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala (6-13/2021 WL; FP/KL/Others/32487/2018)

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is to construct a bridge at Kumbichalkadavu across Neyyar River. The project area falls in Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala. The proposed bridge is considered as an only solution for the hardship of the tribal people. So a seven span bridge of total length 253.4 m having a carriage way of 7.50m and 1.5m footpath on either side has been proposed. The total width of the bridge comes to 11.00m. The State Government has proposed for use of 0.416 ha from the Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden:

1. A horizontal bar at appropriate height on the two ends of the bridge may also be thought of to restrict movement of heavy commercial vehicles on this road.
 2. The road has to be completely sealed at Anamuzham (Kerala-Tamil Nadu border) and one forest check post at Kumbichal Kadavu may have to be erected for better management of wildlife sanctuary.
 3. The road from Kumbichalkadavu to Anamukham should be used only for genuine tribal inhabitants and not as interstate road between Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- B. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

61.5.10 Renewal of clearance earlier granted under WPA, 1972. At the same time to increase the periphery of mining pit within the lease area by about 10 Ha. of which 1.5 Ha will fall inside forest area. The total lease area of 275.963 Ha falls within Gangau Sanctuary of which 74.018 H, Madhya Pradesh (6-12/2021 WL; FP/MP/MIN/3966/2019).

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for renewal of lease earlier granted vide recommendation of Standing Committee on 20th January, 2006 under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 over total lease area of 275.963 ha falling within Gangau Sanctuary and at the same time to increase the periphery of mining pit within the lease area by about 10 ha. The project has already been operating in the area since 1968. There are no alternative areas in the immediate vicinity under NMDC with Diamond reserves of sufficient quantity. To extract the rare mineral, it is essential that the wildlife clearance is accorded for a further period of 20 years i.e. up to 31/12/2040.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

The Chief Wild Life Warden in his recommendations has stated that The matter is being monitored by the Monitoring Committee constituted by the State Government on the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Any decision in this matter will have to be taken after the approval of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The State Chief Wild Life Warden has recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions and approval of the mine closure plan duly

approved by the Monitoring Committee appointed by the State as per the directions of the apex court:

1. Slurry or the polluted water will not be released in the park.
2. No blasting during night time.
3. Only silent blasting to be allowed.
4. No High intensity lights to be allowed.
5. 5% of the project cost for Tiger Foundation Society

As the area falls within the Panna Tiger Reserve, comments from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) were sought. NTCA has stated that the project area is falling within the Panna National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary. Member Secretary further stated that this project was examined by CEC and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 13.08.2008 in I.A. No. 1485 and 1507 in W.P. (C) No. 202/1995 approved the wildlife clearance while imposing certain conditions as below:

- I. *"NPV as per the applicable rate will be deposited by NMDC for the 74.018 ha. Under its possession and 70.202 ha of forest land used for Earthen Dam;*
- II. *5% of the capital cost incurred on diamond mining project will be deposited for undertaking conservation and protection in the Panna National Park Panna (Gangau) Wildlife Sanctuary;*
- III. *A proper Mine Closure Plan, which includes reclamation and rehabilitation measures, will be drawn and implemented at the cost of the NMDC*
- IV. *The notification dated 12.4.2006 issued by the appropriate authority will be withdrawn;*
- V. *A Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Wildlife Warden with the Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Field Director, Panna National Park and a non-official Member of the National Board for Wildlife (to be nominated by the MoEF) as its members will be responsible for*
 - a. *Approval of the mine closure plan;*
 - b. *Prescribing and Monitoring of various safeguards for operation of the mines;*
 - c. *Approval and Monitoring of the annual work plan for utilization of funds received from the NMDC towards the NPV and 5% of the project cost."*

We nominate Ms. Belinda Wright, as a non-official Member in the above said Monitoring Committee. The above conditions are acceptable to the NMDC and the project is approved subject to fulfilment of the above conditions. Applications are disposed of accordingly."

DIG NTCA vide OM No. 7-3/2021-NTCA dated 15.02.2021 has conveyed the recommendations of NTCA under section 38O (1)(g) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for extension of diamond mining lease in 275.963 ha area under Gangau wildlife Sanctuary adjoining Panna Tiger Reserve subject to fulfillment of conditions laid down by Chief Wild Life Warden, Madhya Pradesh in Part-IV of online proposal and also subject to approval of the Hon'ble Supreme Court as per directions in aforesaid case.

Decision Taken: After detailed discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the NTCA.

The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

61.5.11 Installation of Solar Powered Aviation Obstruction Lights at the peak of Vallanadu Hills Vagaikulam, Thoothukudi (6-30/2021 WL; FP/TN/Others/31029/2017).

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for Installation of Solar Powered Aviation Obstruction Lights at the peak of Vallanadu Hills Vagaikulam, Thoothukudi. The terrain falls in the path meant for the take-off and approach of aircraft operating to Tuticorin Airport. Therefore, it is not safe for operation of aircraft during the hours from sunset to sunrise. The proposed area of 0.01 ha falls within Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden:

1. The project proponent shall obtain all other statutory clearances, impact mitigation and wildlife conservation plan of Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary, Google map with GPS coordinates along with Land Use Pattern Map.
2. Any other condition stipulated by the Chief Conservator of Forests/District Forest Officer shall be followed.
3. The project proponent shall submit an undertaking that no disturbance will be caused to the wildlife during the project implementation.

- B. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

61.5.12 Upgradation of Urattum to Iylapur road via Kondai from km 1/9 to km 23/9 in Warangal District (6-31/2021 WL; FP/TG/ROAD/20352/2016).

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for Upgradation of Urattum to Iylapur road via Kondai from km 1/9 to km 23/9 in Warangal District. The proposed road will provide better connectivity to the tribal villages to meet out their basic needs. The proposed project area falls in the Eturunagaram Wildlife Sanctuary.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden:

S.No.	Component	Financial target (Rs in Lakhs)
I	To be carried out by user agency	
1	The User Agency shall install chain link fencing on either side of the proposed passing through the wildlife areas at animal crossing zones indicated by the DFO/FDO concerned at their own cost.	Cost to be borne by User Agency
2	The User Agency shall also construct underpasses for movement of wild animals from one side of the road to the other. The underpasses shall be as per the design and specifications prescribed by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun at their own cost. The locations for the underpasses will be provided by the DFO/FDO concerned.	Cost to be borne by User Agency
3	The User Agency will set up speed breakers/speed controlling devices at all animal crossing zones as indicated by the DFO/FDO concerned at their own cost.	Cost to be borne by User Agency
II	To be carried out by Forest Department with funds provided by User Agency	

1	Installation of solar bore wells 8 Nos. @ Rs. 5.00 lakh each	40.00
2	Construction of percolation tanks for storage of water from solar bore wells 8 nos. @ Rs. 3.00 lakhs each	24.00
3	Development of natural grasslands 50 ha @ Rs. 30,000/- per ha	15.00
4	Construction of watch towers 1 No. @ Rs. 6.00 lakh each	6.00
5	Purchase of camera traps 20 Nos. @ Rs. 30,000/- each	6.00
6	Installation of publicity and informative hoardings 6 nos. @ 1.50 lakh each	9.00
7	Purchase of strike force vehicle 1 no. @ Rs. 6.00 lakh each	6.00
8	Operation and maintenance of strike force vehicle 5 years @ Rs. 1.60 lakh each	8.00
9	Maintenance of Eco-tourism facilities at Tadvai 5 years @ Rs. 2.00 lakh each	10.00
10	Administrative cost @ 5% of project cost	6.00
	Total	130.00 lakhs

The above amount of Rs. 130 lakhs shall be deposited by the User Agency in the BIOSOT account of Chief Wild Life Warden, Telangana

III. Other Conditions:

1. The User Agency shall fell only the barest minimum number of trees while executing the work.
 2. The Work shall be carried out without disturbing or damaging flora, fauna or habitat of the area.
 3. Work shall be carried out from 6.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. only.
 4. The material for carrying out the proposed works shall be kept outside the sanctuary area. As and when required, they should be carried to the site during execution of work.
 5. No labour camp should be established inside Tiger Reserve during execution of the work.
 6. The debris formed due to execution of the works shall be taken away from the Tiger Reserve on day to day basis.
 7. The User Agency shall construct masonry pillars to demarcate the proposed project area at every 25-meter interval.
- B. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

61.5.13 Proposal for Sakida Soapstone Mine over an Area of 14.226 ha near village-Sakida, Tehsil-Bageshwar, District-Bageshwar (UK) within the 10 km of Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary (6-14/2021 WL; FP/UK/MIN/5424/2020).

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for Sakida Soapstone Mine over an Area of 14.226 ha near village-Sakida, Tehsil-Bageshwar, District-Bageshwar (UK) within the 10 km of Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary. Proposed soap stone mining area is located at a distance of about 4.50 km from the project site.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden:

1. No Mining shall be allowed in the area by Sakida Soapstone Mine which has not been identified in the comprehensive mining plan of the District.
2. Replenishment study should be conducted on regular basis by Sakida Soapstone Mine.
3. Mining area shall be identified and put for auction with proper geo-tagged details by Sakida Soapstone Mine.
4. The latitude and longitude of each mining area lease shall be clearly mentioned in letter of intent issued to Sakida Soapstone Mine-Such information shall be provided on the website of the district administration.
5. There shall be no river bed mining operation allowed in monsoon period Sakida Soapstone Mine. The period as defined by IMD Nagpur for each state shall be adhered with.
6. The monitoring infrastructures including weighbridge and adequate fencing of lease area, CCTV, Transport permits, etc, shall be ensured by Sakida Soapstone Mine in order to reduce unrecorded dispatch.
7. Regular monitoring of mined minerals and its transportation and storage shall be ensured by Sakida Soapstone Mine and all information shall be captured at centralized database so that easy tracking of illegal material can be done.
8. The project proponent will abide by Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining 2020.

- B. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

61.5.14 Proposal for Bajeta Soapstone Mine (Area-17.967 ha) near village-Bajeta, Tehsil-Munsiyari and District-Pithoragarh Uttarakhand. The proposed site is 3.4 km from Askot Wildlife Sanctuary (6-18 /2021 WL; FP/UK/MIN/5414/2020).

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for Bajeta Soapstone Mine (Area-17.967 ha) near village-Bajeta, Tehsil-Munsiyari and District-Pithoragarh Uttarakhand. The proposed site is 3.4 km from Askot Wildlife Sanctuary.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden:

1. No Mining shall be allowed in the area by Bajeta Soapstone Mine which has not been identified in the comprehensive mining plan of the District.
 2. Replenishment study should be conducted on regular basis by Bajeta Soapstone Mine.
 3. Mining area shall be identified and put for auction with proper geo-tagged details by Bajeta Soapstone Mine.
 4. The latitude and longitude of each mining area lease shall be clearly mentioned in letter of intent issued to Bajeta Soapstone Mine-Such information shall be provided on the website of the district administration.
 5. There shall be no river bed mining operation allowed in monsoon period Bajeta Soapstone Mine. The period as defined by IMD Nagpur for each state shall be adhered with.
 6. The monitoring infrastructures including weighbridge and adequate fencing of lease area, CCTV, Transport permits, etc, shall be ensured by Bajeta Soapstone Mine in order to reduce unrecorded dispatch.
 7. Regular monitoring of mined minerals and its transportation and storage shall be ensured by Bajeta Soapstone Mine and all information shall be captured at centralized database so that easy tracking of illegal material can be done.
 8. The project proponent will abide by Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining 2020.
- B. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild

Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

61.5.15 Proposal for collection of Minor Minerals from Song 1, 2, 3 and Jakhan 1, 2 of Dehradun Forest division, Uttarakhand (6-24/2021 WL; FP/UK/MIN/38285/2019).

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for use of collection of balu, bajri and boulders from Song 1, 2, 3 and Jakhan 1, 2 of Dehradun Forest division, Uttarakhand. Out of the 5 mining lots in the proposal, Song -3 is located about 0.2 km from the P.A. boundary. As the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 4.8.2006, mining within 1 km from the boundary of national park and sanctuary area. Another lot, Jakhan -1 is located more than 10 km from the boundary of national park, therefore, the SBWL excluded this lot from their recommendations. Regarding the certificate of compliance for Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020, the project proponent has given the undertaking that the conditions in these guidelines will be followed. Chief Wild Life Warden, Uttarakhand has recommended the proposals subject to the condition that these guidelines will be adhered to by the User Agency. The Member Secretary further stated that the comments from NMCG were sought in similar cases.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided that Ministry shall seek comments from NMCG on the proposal and decided to defer the proposal till the certificate of compliance for Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 in the state of Uttarakhand is submitted by the State Government. The proposals from any state for mining sand from the river shall not be considered by SCNBWL unless a certificate regarding compliance of certificate for Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 in the state is given by State Government/UTs.

61.5.16 400kV D/C Jaunpur Obra Transmission Line (6-4 /2021 WL; FP/UP/TRANS/40906/2019)

The Member Secretary briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal is for use of land inside Kaimur Sanctuary for laying 400kV D/C Jaunpur Obra Transmission line starting from LILO point of Obra-B Obra-C line, located at Chopan and terminating at substation constructed by UPPTCL at Machlisahar in Jaunpur District. The route of the above line passing through the Kaimur wildlife sanctuary located in Sonbhadra district, involves forest as well as non-forest land totalling to 55.447 ha

The Member Secretary stated that there are many transmission lines passing through the Kaimur Sanctuary. The Secretary, MoEF & CC opined that the possibility of bunching the transmission lines passing through the protected area may be examined if it is technologically feasible.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided that Ministry shall constitute a committee comprising of Dr. Sukumar,, representatives from Wildlife Institute of India, Central Electricity Authority and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited to examine the matter and suggest site-specific mitigation measures within a period of 30 days.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1	Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for EF&CC	Chairman
2	Shri R P Gupta, Secretary, MoEF&CC	Member
3	Shri Sanjay Kumar, DGF&SS, MoEF&CC	Member
4	Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, AGF(WL), MoEF&CC	Member Secretary
5	Prof R Sukumar, Member, NBWL	Member
6	Dr H S Singh, Member, NBWL	Member
7	Shri R D Kamboj, Member, NBWL	Member
8	Dr Dhananjay Mohan, Member, NBWL	Member
9	Shri S.P. Yadav, ADG (PT) and MS, NTCA	Invitee
10	Shri Sisir Kumar Ratho, ADG(FC)	Invitee
11	Shri Rohit Tiwari, IGF(WL)	Invitee
12	Mr Brijendra Swaroop, IGF(PE)	Invitee
13	Shri M.K. Yadava, Chief Wild Life Warden, Assam	Invitee
14	Shri. A K Shukla, PCCF and Chief Wild Life Warden, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Invitee
15	Shri. Shyamal Tikedar, Chief Wild Life Warden, Gujarat	Invitee
16	Ms. Sarita Chauhan, Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Environment and Ecology Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir	Invitee
17	Shri. Suresh Gupta, Chief Wild Life Warden, Jammu & Kashmir	Invitee
18	Shri Surendra Kumar, Chief Wild Life Warden, Kerala	Invitee
19	Shri Vijay Kumar Gogi, Chief Wild Life Warden, Karnataka	Invitee
20	Shri Nitin Kakodkar, Chief Wild Life Warden, Maharashtra	Invitee
21	Shri. Alok Shrivastava, Chief Wild Life Warden, Madhya Pradesh	Invitee
22	Mrs R. Shoba, PCCF & HoFFF, Telangana	Invitee
23	Shri M.L Meena, Chief Wild Life Warden, Rajasthan	Invitee
24	Shri Sunil Pandey, Chief Wild Life Warden, Uttar Pradesh	Invitee
25	Shri J.S. Suhag, Chief Wild Life Warden, Uttarakhand	Invitee
26	Shri Rakesh Kr Jagenia, DIGF(WL), MoEF&CC	Invitee
27	Shri Surender Gugloth, Scientist D, MoEF&CC	Invitee

ANIMAL PASSAGE PLAN

**FOR 765 KV D/C LAKADIA TO BANASKANTHA
TRANSMISSION LINE PASSING THROUGH WILD ASS
SANCTUARY, GUJARAT**



Animal Passage Plan for 765 kV D/C Lakadia to Banaskantha Transmission Line passing through Protected area of Wild Ass Sanctuary, Gujarat

1. ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The present proposal is for laying a transmission line of 765 kV D/C Lakadia to Banaskantha Transmission Line. The said Project has great National Importance and the Ministry of Power, Government of India, initiated a scheme to establish transmission system for Bhuj-II, Dwaraka and Lakadia Solar/Wind energy potential zone and to evacuate the power to be generated at these RE sources under SPV named “Lakadia Banaskantha Transco Limited” with establishing 765 kV D/C Lakadia to Banaskantha Transmission Line.

With the introduction of Electricity act 2003, competition was brought into power sector and its sub sectors. Power generation business was delicensed which led to huge capacity addition by the private sector and this warranted transmission network to be reinforced so that all the power generated could be supplied to the end users. The provision for independent transmission licenses were created for private sector to get in to the business.

As per the programme of GOI, Renewable Energy (RE) projects are coming up in Bhuj-II, Dwaraka and Lakadia Solar/Wind energy potential zone and to evacuate the power to be generated at these RE sources, Western Region Standing Committee on Transmission (WRSTC) in its 1st meeting held on 05.09.2018 had planned the following transmission system:

- Lakadia PS – Banaskantha PS 765 kV D/C line.
- 765 kV Bays at Lakadia and Banaskantha substations for Lakadia PS – Banaskantha PS 765 kV D/C line 765 kV Bays – 4nos.
- 240MVAR switchable Line reactor at Banaskantha end of Lakadia PS – Banaskantha PS 765 kV D/C and 1x80 MVAR, 765 kV, 1 Ph switchable line reactor (spare unit) at Banaskantha end

The scheme was approved to be implemented through Tariff Based Competitive Bidding mode in the 3rd meeting of Empowered Committee on Transmission held on 8th January, 2019. The Ministry of Power, Government of India, vide its Gazette notification. No 15/3/2018-Trans – Pt (1) dated 01.02.2019 had appointed REC Transmission Projects Company Limited to be the Bid Process Coordinator (BPC) for the purpose of selection of Bidder as Transmission Service Provider (TSP) to establish transmission system for Transmission System associated with RE generations at Bhuj-II, Dwarka & Lakadia through tariff based competitive bidding process.

The BPC has invited Bids for selection of Transmission Service Provider to establish the Transmission System as mentioned above for “Establish transmission system for Transmission System associated with RE generations at Bhuj-II, Dwarka & Lakadia” on build, own, operate and maintain basis, and to provide transmission service on a long term basis to the Long Term Transmission Customers.



The BPC has concluded the bidding process and Adani Transmission Limited (ATL); was adjourned the successful bidder in the reverse auction bidding process and Letter of Intent (LOI) was received from BPC and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) namely "Lakadia Banaskantha Transco Limited" has been acquired by Adani Transmission Limited on 13.11.2019.

2. PROJECT LOCATION:

765 KV D/C Lakadia - Banaskantha Transmission Line starting from proposed Lakadia Substation in Kutch District and terminating at 765/400 kV Substation in Mudetha in Banaskantha District, Gujarat. The line length is 176.147 Km and is passing through 3 districts namely Kutch, Patan and Banaskantha in state of Gujarat.

3. JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED ROUTE & ALTERNATIVES EXAMINED:

During the selection of route for 765 KV D/C Lakadia-Banaskantha Transmission line, utmost emphasis was made to align the route through non-forest land. Wherever it was not possible to avoid the forest land in the route, it was ensured that the line passes through minimum forest land by keeping the line length as short as possible through the forest stretches.

Three alternatives are explored along the Bee Line keeping the in view the design considerations, environmental forest and wildlife impacts, avoid habituated areas, keeping the crossings of Roads and Highways, Power Lines and Railway lines etc. to minimum. The route was marked on the TOPO Sheets and corresponding GPS co-ordinates were obtained for all the Alternatives. Thereafter, walkover survey of all the routes was carried out to ascertain the features along the routes and select the most suitable route for the transmission line. An exhaustive exercise was carried out during the survey to select the route keeping the involvement of forest land and wildlife sanctuary area to minimum.

A comparative statement along with salient features of all the three alternatives wrt WLS area involvement is as below:

S. No.	Description	ALTERNATIVE-I (PROPOSED ROUTE)	ALTERNATIVE-II	ALTERNATIVE-III
1	BEE LINE (Kms.)	165.408	165.408	165.408
2	Length of alternatives (Kms.)	176.148	185.404	181.627
3	Wild Ass Sanctuary (WAS) Area			
	Length of line through "WAS"	1.599 Kms.	1.948 Kms.	3.294 Kms.
	Area of "WAS" (Ha.)	9.749 Ha. (i.e. Forest: 3.8870 ha Nonforest:5.8620 ha)	13.0516 Ha. (i.e. Forest: 10.4989 ha Non forest:2.5527 ha)	22.0698 Ha. (i.e. Forest: 4.3215 ha Nonforest:17.7483ha)



As can be seen from the above comparative statement wildlife sanctuary area involvement in Alternative-I is least among all the three alternatives i.e. only 9.749 ha and cannot be avoided. In addition, the length of line is shortest along the Alternative-I among the three. The crossings of existing power transmission lines, railways and Highways is also less in comparison to other alternatives. Keeping in view the advantages as stated above, Alternative-I is found to be most suitable from technical, environmental, forests & wildlife and implementation and O&M point of view and thus is considered to be adopted for laying of the transmission line.

4. AREA DETAILS FALLING IN WILD ASS SANCTUARY:

Out of total 176.1478 Km of transmission line length, about 1.5990 Km of line is passing through Wild Ass Sanctuary, Dhrangadhra/Kutch East Division.

The proposed line is passing through 9.7490 ha. (i.e. 3.8870 ha of forestland and 5.8620 ha of Non-forestland) in Kutch Wild Ass Sanctuary falling under Dhrangadhra / Kutch East Division. The total 9.7490 ha area (i.e. 3.8870 ha of forest land and 5.8620 ha of Non-forest land) of Wild Ass Sanctuary area involved in the proposed route alignment for the construction of transmission line is barest minimum.

S No	District	Village	Khasra no	Area (ha)	Land type
1	Kutch	Sanwa	341	2.017	Forest land
2			1208/P-250	1.532	Non Forest land
3			407	1.87	Forest land
4			1208/P-250	0.567	Non Forest land
5			1208/P-250	0.252	Non Forest land
6			1208/P-250	0.753	Non Forest land
7			1208/P-250	2.758	Non Forest land
8	Total			9.749	
	(i) Forest land			3.887	
	(ii) Non Forest land			5.862	

5. MAJOR ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN THE TRANSMISSION PROJECT:

The major construction activity envisages in the proposed transmission project are as follows

- Construction of Tower Foundation (An average of about 25 M x 25 M tower base and activities involves excavation of soil and concreting)
- Erection of transmission towers (involves joining of tower members/lattice structure)
- Stringing of electrical conductor wires between adjacent towers.

The above activities will be carried out by engaging suitable Contractor. For tower foundation works, local gangs/manpower are usually engaged as petty Contractor and temporary makeshift camps are set nearby the construction site till completion of work. Tower erection and stringing of conductor is generally carried out by specialized gangs and temporary construction camps are also required to be set up for this purpose.



6. LIKELY IMPACT OF THE PROJECT ON PROTECTED AREA OF WILD ASS SANCTUARY: -

The impact on the forest and wildlife associated with power transmission project with specific reference to the proposed 765 kV D/C Lakadia to Banaskantha Transmission Line passing through Protected area of Wild Ass Sanctuary, Gujarat is summarized as below:

a. Habitat Loss and Fragmentation:

Generally, transmission line corridors, are known to affect many different animal groups, predominantly birds. These impacts are largely associated with fragmentation & degradation of wildlife habitats along the transmission line corridor i.e. Right of Way. The large scale felling of trees along the line corridor might impact the nesting sites of birds as well as habitat and movement of others arboreal species like monkey, primates etc.

In case of 765 kV D/C Lakadia to Banaskantha transmission Line, total area of transmission line passing through the wildlife sanctuary is 9.7490 ha. (i.e. 3.8870 ha of forestland and 5.8620 ha of Non-forestland) and this amount is about 0.002% of the total area of the Wild Ass Sanctuary (i.e. 4953.712 sq.km or 495371 ha.). For 765 kV transmission line maximum width of RoW is 67 m and ground clearance of conductor is 15 meter. In proposed route alignment, no tree felling is involved in the route passing through WLS area. Therefore, there shall be minimal or no adverse impact, as there is minimal involvement of WLS area and no tree felling is involved.

For said 765 kV transmission line, the minimum ground clearance of 15 meter shall be provided, which is sufficient for safe passage of tallest animals and others mammals and hence does not have any impact on movement of wild animals.

b. Electrocution & accidental collision of Birds:

As per available/listed data risk of electrocution of birds are mostly related to distribution/transmission lines up to 110 kV due to dimensions and spacing between two conductors. Electrocution of Bird/Raptor by EHV lines of 132kV & above is quite rare. Moreover, collusion of birds is mostly reported during landing and takeoff in area close to water bodies, designated bird areas/ sanctuary having large congregation of birds or line intersecting identified bird fly or migratory paths hence bird diverter even if placed on EHV line can only be effective if it is installed in the fly path of birds. The avian fauna may be affected due to navigational disorientation, striking / collision with the transmission line.

In case of 765 kV D/C Lakadia to Banaskantha transmission Line, Company is following principle of avoidance and took utmost care to avoid such areas while selecting the optimum route of said transmission line. The net impact of electrocution of large birds is not considered significant because there has been no documented evidence of large bird kills from the existing TL lines around project area and appropriate mitigative measures are proposed to minimize any unforeseen impacts. To avoid electrocution impact, if any on birds, about 15 m of vertical distance shall be maintained between two conductors. Further, to prevent accidental collisions of birds with the conductor, if any, appropriate mitigation measures like bird diverters shall be installed at appropriate locations of said line passing through WLS.



c. Induced Impact on Wildlife from Construction workers.

Construction manpower will be required for execution of the project and makeshift construction camps and will be set up at the tower foundation/erection sites as per site requirement. Generally, for tower foundation works, local manpower/workers will be engaged. However, for specialized works like tower erection and stringing, migrant laborers are usually engaged. The induced impact on the wildlife of Wild Ass Sanctuary from such construction workers is the likelihood of involvement in hunting/trafficking of wild animals and other unlawful activity during the execution of the project.

In case of 765 kV D/C Lakadia to Banaskantha transmission Line, no labour camp will be established in Wildlife Ass Sanctuary area. It shall be ensured that that no activity is carried out after sunset within the sanctuary area. Awareness-raising will be done to mitigate this risk. The contractor and his workers must be informed on the Forest and Nature Conservation Act, Rules and Regulations and copies of these shall be made available to them. Workers shall be made aware of the fines and penalties as well as the risk of job loss for poaching/hunting to avoid such illegal activities.

7. SAFEGUARD FOR ANIMAL/WILDLIFE PASSAGE

The proposed line is passing through the outer part of WLS area, which are bare minimum and unavoidable. It is expected that no significant irreversible change in local biodiversity will occur as a result of the project. The transmission line will not create any barriers to wildlife and bird movements. While the transmission line alignment is passing through outer part of sanctuary area, hence not expected to cause any adverse impact on any key wildlife habitat. As far as the RET species is concerned, no rare, endangered, threatened category species were found in the proposed area.

There are already existing transmission lines in the area parallel to the route of the present proposal. However, no significant change in the types of the wild life and the behavior of the wild animals observed due to existing transmission line. The distance between two towers in the proposed transmission line is around 350 m-400 m and ground clearance is about 15 m which will not affect the movement of the animals/wild life. Thus the movement of the terrestrial wild life will not be affected by the construction and operation of the proposed transmission line. However, there is need to take precautions during the construction of the transmission line, so that activity does not affect the wild animals. The following measures are suggested for minimize any adverse impact on the wild life of the area:

- As per Indian Electricity rule, the minimum ground clearance for 765 kV transmission line is 15 meter i.e. the lower most electrical conductor wire between two adjacent towers will be stringed in such a way that the minimum height from actual ground level is always more than 15 meter, which is sufficient for safe passage of tallest animals and others mammals and hence does not have any impact on movement of wild animals.
- In proposed route alignment, no tree felling is involved in the route passing through WLS area.



- The net impact of electrocution of large birds is not considered significant because there has been no documented evidence of large bird kills from the existing TL lines around project area. But appropriate measures to avoid bird collision, if any shall be taken.
- To avoid electrocution impact, if any on birds, the stringing of conductor for the transmission line shall be carried out maintaining a separation between energized conductors. About 15 m of vertical distance shall be maintained between two conductors. The above arrangement, will nullify the likelihood of electrocution of large winged birds as the distance between energized conductors will be always much more than the maximum wing span of the birds.
- Further, to prevent accidental collisions of birds with the conductor, if any, appropriate mitigation measures like bird diverters shall be installed at appropriate locations of said line passing through sanctuary area so that same could be visible to birds from long distance.
- During the construction phase, the excavated pits shall be properly barricaded and fenced, so as to prevent accidental falling of mammals in the vicinity of the construction sites.
- The entire line shall be constructed in stages, so that at any one place the construction impact will be temporary and limited in nature.
- Noise levels during the construction phase shall be monitored properly to avoid disturbance, if any to the animals.
- No construction activity shall be undertaken after sunset and during the night.
- No harm to wildlife habitat including fauna and flora of the sanctuary shall be ensured.
- The WLS area shall not be used for any other work other than the work permitted.
- No establishment of any temporary or permanent labour camp inside the sanctuary area.
- Alternate Fuel (LPG) shall be provided to Laborer's for cooking purpose.
- No vehicular movement inside sanctuary area shall be allowed from sunset to sunrise except emergency vehicle.
- To minimize the disturbance to wildlife, no new approach road shall be constructed in the forest area. The existing village tracts/paths shall be utilized for carrying of tower materials.
- Awareness-raising will be done to mitigate this risk. The contractor and his workers shall be informed on the Forest and Nature Conservation Act, Rules and Regulations and copies of these shall be made available to them. Workers shall be made aware of the fines and penalties as well as the risk of job loss for poaching/hunting to avoid such illegal activities.
- In addition to above mitigation measures, any other measures as envisaged by the CWLW/State Board of Wildlife/National Board of Wildlife and as per provisions of wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 shall be implemented by the company during execution of the project.



ANIMAL PASSAGE PLAN

765 kV D/C Lakadia-Vadodara Transmission Line passing
through
Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary



User Agency

Lakadia-Vadodara Transmission Project Ltd

ANIMAL PASSAGE PLAN FOR 765 KV D/C LAKADIA TO VADODARA TRANSMISSION LINE PASSING THROUGH PROTECTED AREA OF WILD ASS SANCTUARY, GUJARAT

1. INTRODUCTION OF PROJECT

Government of India has set a target for establishing 175 GW renewable capacity by 2022 which includes 100 GW Solar, 60 GW Wind generation capacity. This includes wind potential of about 6GW in Bhuj complex, 2GW in Lakadia and 1.5GW in Dwarka. For integration and evacuation of power from generation projects in the above areas, a high capacity 765kV and 400kV transmission system interconnecting Bhuj, Lakadia, Banaskantha, Vadodara & Dwarka.

Lakadia-Vadodara Transmission Project Limited (LVTPL) is developing the project, “Construction of 765 KV D/C Lakadia-Vadodara Transmission Line” which is awarded through tariff based competitive bidding process under “WRSS-21 (Part B)-Transmission system strengthening for relieving the overloading observed in Gujarat Intra-State system due to RE injections in Bhuj PS”.

This project connects the wind energy zones of Bhuj in Gujarat to the load centres in the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra. It involves laying of 330 km of 765 kV double-circuit transmission line to connect 765/400 kV Lakadia substation to Vadodara substation in Gujarat, in an aggressive timeframe of 18 months.

The transmission line proposed route is passing through the Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary, which requires wildlife clearance from the State Wildlife Board of Gujarat and National Wildlife Board at Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

2. THE TECHNICAL DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED IS STATED AS BELOW:

Name of project for which WL clearance is required	765 KV D/C Lakadia-Vadodara Transmission Line Proposal No.: FP/GJ/TRANS/43086/2019
Total Project Length	329.333 Km
Details of wildlife area involved	Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary
Total no of towers to be erected in WL area	13 Nos.
Total wildlife area involved	30.81 Ha (Entire non-forest area)



3. JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATION OF THE PROJECT

Three alternative route corridors were identified largely by maximizing linear sighting opportunities, such as following existing roadways and power line corridors, negotiation with river, railway, road, electric power and telephone line crossing and least crossing of notified/reserved forest areas. All efforts have been made to provide minimum numbers of angle points and utmost care have been taken on the ground with possible angle of deviation. Similarly, power line crossings have been fixed as close as possible to the right angle but not less than the 60 degree crossing. The line passes through Kutch, Morbi, Surendranagar, Ahmedabad, Kheda, Anand & Vadodara Districts of Gujarat. Every effort has been made to avoid forest area but it is not possible to completely avoid the forest.

The alignment with minimum crossing of the forest & having minimum length has been selected as the proposed alignment. After detailed analysis, it is observed that Alternative-1 has the least route length and has minimum crossing in terms of rail, road and existing power lines. Alternative-1 is also best in terms of approachability for construction as well as maintenance purpose. Keeping the above points in consideration, Alternative - 1 is proposed as the final route alignment.

Comparative Statement for Alternative-1, 2, 3 Routes: -

Sr No	Description	Alternate 1 (Proposed)	Alternate-2	Alternate-3
1	BEE Line Length (KM)	309 KM	309 KM	309 KM
2	Route Length (KM)	329.333 KM	333.108 KM	336.686 KM
3	Length of Transmission Line in Forest Area	Forest-2.540 Km. Dhrangadhra Wild Ass Sanctuary-4.623 Km	Forest-5.575 Km. Dhrangadhra Wild Ass Sanctuary-7.860 Km)	Forest-3.322 Km. Dhrangadhra Wild Ass Sanctuary-12.68 Km)
4	Wildlife Sanctuaries / National Parks	Dhrangadhra Wild Ass Sanctuary- 30.81 Ha.	Dhrangadhra Wild Ass Sanctuary-52.662 Ha.	Dhrangadhra Wild Ass Sanctuary-84.956 Ha.
5	Places of Archaeological Importance	NIL	NIL	NIL
6	Terrain condition	Plain Terrain	Plain Terrain	Plain Terrain



7	Any other relevant information	Minimum line length, minimum forest & WL area and minimum tree felling	Maximum line length, forest & WL area and maximum tree felling	Maximum line length, forest & WL area and maximum tree felling
8	Places of historical / cultural / religious / tourist importance	NIL	NIL	NIL
9	Line Pass through any Town/ City	NO	NO	NO

4. MAJOR ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN THE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

The major construction activity envisages in the proposed transmission project are as follows:

- Construction of Tower Foundation (An average of 25 M x 25 M tower base and activities involves excavation of soil and concreting)
- Erection of transmission towers
- Stringing of electrical conductor wires between adjacent towers.

The above activities will be carried out by engaging suitable Contractor. For tower foundation works, local gangs/manpower are usually engaged as petty Contractor and temporary makeshift camps are set nearby the construction site till completion of work. Tower erection and stringing of conductor is generally carried out by specialized gangs.

5. LIKELY IMPACT OF THE PROJECT ON PROTECTED AREA OF WILD ASS SANCTUARY: -

The impact of the proposed 765 kV D/C power transmission line from Lakadia to Vadodara on the Protected area of Wild Ass WLS is summarized as below:

a. Impact on Flora & Fauna:

Powerlines are known to affect few animal groups, predominantly birds. These impacts are largely associated with bird habitats along the powerline corridor. The large-scale felling of trees along the line corridor might impact the nesting sites of birds.

In case of 765 kV D/C Lakadia-Vadodara Transmission line, the RoW is considered as 67 meter, wherein no standing trees are required to be felled, looped/pruned for any of the construction activity i.e., tower foundation, tower erection & electrical conductor stringing. For said 765 kV transmission line, the minimum ground clearance of 15 meter shall be provided, which is sufficient for safe passage of even tallest animals and others mammals and hence does not have any impact on movement of wild animals.



b. Electrocution & Accidental collision of Birds:

As per available data, risk of electrocution of birds are mostly related to distribution/transmission lines up to 110 kV due to dimensions and spacing between two conductors. electrocution of Bird/Raptor by EHV lines of 132kV & above is quite rare. Moreover, collision of birds is mostly reported during landing and takeoff in area close to water bodies, designated bird areas/ sanctuary having large congregation of birds or line intersecting identified bird fly or migratory paths. Utmost care has been taken to avoid such areas while selecting the optimum line route for this transmission line and net impact of electrocution of large birds is not considered significant because there has been no documented evidence of large bird kills from the existing TL lines around project area. Appropriate mitigative measures are proposed to minimize any such unforeseen impacts. Further, to prevent accidental collisions of birds with the conductor, if any, appropriate mitigation measures like bird diverters shall be installed at suitable intervals on said line passing through WLS.

c. Induced Impact on Wildlife from Construction workers.

Construction manpower will be required for execution of the project and makeshift construction camps, if required. Generally, for tower foundation works, local manpower/workers will be engaged. However, for specialized works like tower erection and stringing, migrant laborers are usually engaged. The induced impact on the wildlife of Wild Ass Sanctuary from such construction workers is the likelihood of involvement in hunting/trafficking of wild animals and other unlawful activity during the execution of the project.

6. SAFEGUARD FOR ANIMAL PASSAGE

The proposed transmission line is passing through the outer part of the sanctuary area, which are barest minimum and unavoidable. It is expected that no significant irreversible change in local biodiversity will occur because of the project. The transmission line will not create any barriers to wildlife and bird movements. The Bio-diversity Impact Assessment study carried out in this area reflects that No major Flora and Fauna found in the area near to Transmission Line. While the transmission line alignment does not pass through any key wildlife habitat of Wild Ass Sanctuary (much of it is barren) and is not expected to cause any net loss of species. The following measures are suggested for minimize any adverse impact on the wildlife of the area:

- As per Indian Electricity Rules, the minimum ground clearance for 765 kV Transmission line is 11.85 meter at null point while a minimum ground clearance of 15 meter has been proposed by Lakadia Vadodara Transmission Project Ltd throughout the line. Therefore,



minimum height from actual ground level shall always be more than 15 meter which is sufficient for safe passage of animals and others mammals.

- In addition to the above, no felling of trees will be there in the Wildlife area for construction of the transmission line.
- The net impact of electrocution of large birds is not considered significant because there has been no documented evidence of large bird kills from the existing TL lines around project area. But mitigation measures to avoid Bird collision shall be taken.
- The Stringing of conductor for the transmission line shall be carried out maintaining a separation between energized conductors. The above arrangement will nullify the likelihood of electrocution of large-winged birds, because the distance between energized conductors will be always more than the maximum wingspan of the bird.
- To prevent accidental collision of birds with the conductor bird diverter/colored/contrast marker devices shall be installed on the earth wire to make it visible to birds from long distance.
- Bird Guard will be provided on towers as per requirement to prevent birds from sitting in the insulator strings which may result in puncture of insulator due to defecation by birds.
- During the construction phase, the excavated pits shall be properly barricaded and fenced so as to prevent accidental falling of mammals in the vicinity of the construction sites.
- No work will be carried out at nights (i.e., between sunset & sunrise) in the Wildlife area.
- No labour camp will be established in Protected area and its ESZ.
- Alternate Fuel (LPG) will be provided to Labourers for cooking purpose.
- No new passage for transportation of construction Material will be made. Existing approaches will be utilized.
- Awareness-raising will be an important means to mitigate this risk. The contractor and his workers must be informed on the Forest, Wildlife and Nature Conservation Act, Rules and Regulations. Workers shall be made aware of the fines and penalties for poaching, as well as the risk of job loss, if caught in these illegal activities.



(Vipin Kumar Singh)
Signature of User Agency
Office Seal

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
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लॉड सीब लुम्बतंगेन/LAW-U-SIB, LUMBATNGEN,
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E-mail: moefro.shillong@gov.in



ANNEXURE-II

F. No. 8-61/2012-FC 3622

18th February, 2021

सेवा मे,

अतिरिक्त वन महानिदेशक/Additional Director General of Forests(WL),

भारत सरकार/Govt of India,

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय/Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,

जे -524, जल विंग, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन/ J-524, Jal Wing, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,

जोरबाग रोड, अलीगंज, /Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,

नई दिल्ली / New Delhi – 110 003.

Sub : Proposal for use of 98.59 ha reserve forest land from Saleki Reserve Forest under Digboi Division which is a part of Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve for Tikok Open Cast Project coal mining project by North Eastern Coal India Ltd., Assam-reg.

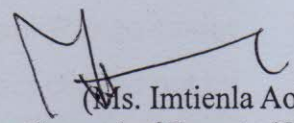
Ref : (i) Office Order F.No.6-38/2019WL dated 06.11.2020 of MoEF & CC (Wildlife Division), New Delhi. .

Sir,

In inviting reference on the subject and letter cited above, I am to enclose herewith the Site Inspection Report carried out by the Fact finding Team of Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), IRO, Shillong, MoEF & CC and Nodal Officer, FC Act, Assam Forest Department on 10th February to 12th Februarys, 2021 and the inspection conducted on 11.02.2021(copy enclosed) in respect to Tikok Open Cast Project coal mining project by North Eastern Coal India Ltd., Assam as per Ministry's letter dated 06.11.2020 for your kind information and further necessary action please.

Yours faithfully,

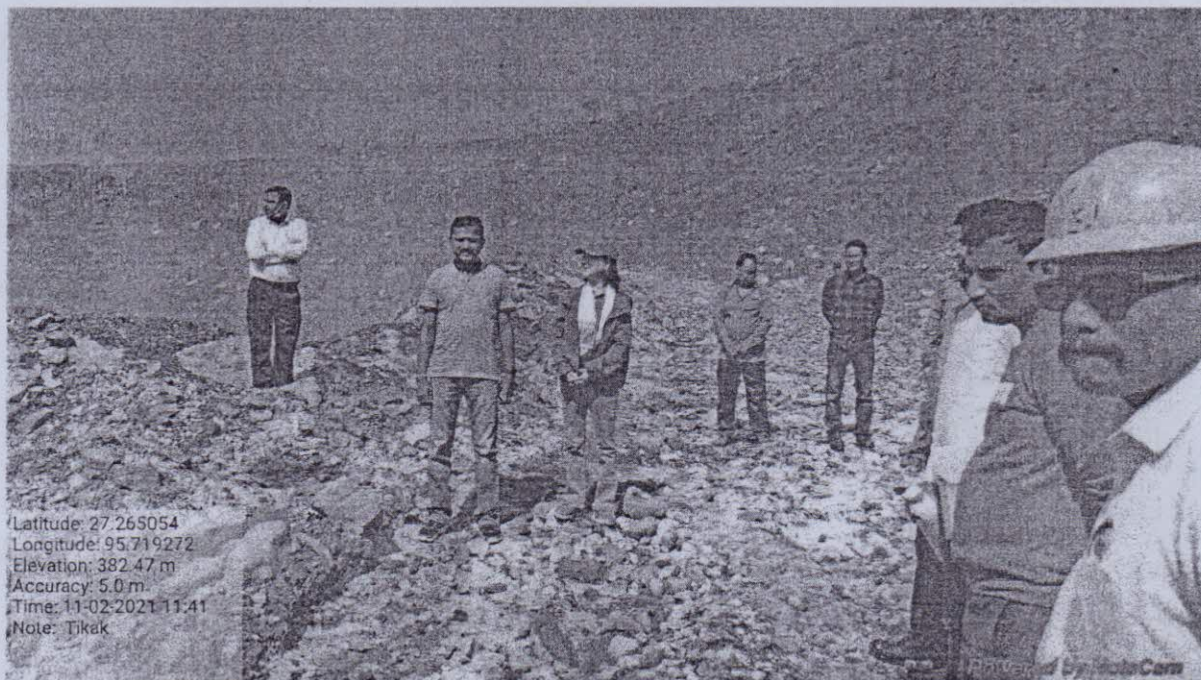
Encl: As above.


(Ms. Imtiena Ao)
Deputy Director General of Forests (C)

0/1

**Report of the Fact Finding Team w.r.t to Proposal for use of 98.59 ha of Saleki
Proposed Reserved Forest Under Digboi Division for Tikak Open Cast Project
by North Eastern Coal Field, Coal India Limited**

The Fact finding team comprising of the Dy. Director General of Forest (Central) , IRO, Shillong, MoEF & CC and Nodal Officer FC act , Assam Forest Department visited the Digboi Division during 10 feb to 12 feb 2021 and conducted the site inspection on 11/02/2021. The team was accompanied by the DIG (C) IRO Shillong, DFO Digboi, other forest officials and officials of Coal India Limited (CIL).



Background Note:

The area of the proposal comes under the Saleki PRF of Lekhapani Range under Digboi Forest Division, Assam. The Tiktok Open cast mine is a project carried out by the Eastern Coalfields, a subsidiary of CIL on a lease over a 4sq mile of which the current proposal area of 98.59 ha falls. A careful examination of the submissions of CIL before the One-Man Enquiry Commission headed by Hon'ble Justice (Rtd) B.P.Katakey, shows that :-

1. The Tikok pen Cast Project (OCP) measuring 98.59 Hs falls under Namdang Coal Grant Lease and the 4 Sq.Mile mining lease, now situated in the Saleki Proposed Reserve Forest under the Digboi Forest Division in Tinsukia district.

2. Mining lease was originally awarded to the parent company on 17.12.1897 and 10.10.1932 by the Secretary of the State for the India In-Council. After nationalization and as per the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act 1973, fresh mining lease was granted for a period of thirty years w.e.f 01.05.1973 to 30.04.2003
3. About a year prior to the expiry of the lease the CIL applied for renewal of lease to the Geology and Mining department, Government of Assam, on 17.07.2002. Meanwhile in 2004, the Government of India, Ministry of Coal and Mines by way of letter dated 10.08.2004 stated that ***"in the interest of mineral development, the Central Government have decided to consider under section 31 of the MMDR Act the request of the coal companies to authorize working of these mines for a further period of 30 years beyond the lease period considering the energy security of the country."*** And as such the leases of the company became automatically validated upto 01.02.2033.
4. Coal India Limited vide their letter dated 28.11.2003 appears to have submitted the proposals for diversion of forestland under FCA 1980 and have further stated that the proposals were forwarded to the Conservator of Forest, Jorhat and the Nodal Officer, GoA in 2005.

However no further developments seems to have taken place till this Regional Office took up the matter in July 2012 and finally a proposal for diversion of the 98.59 Ha was submitted by the GoA to this office vide letter dated 02.04.2013.

During the intervening period, the CIL continued the mining activities over their lease hold area based only the aforementioned valid mining lease but without obtaining forest clearance under the Forest Conservation Act 1980. The Saleki PRF was also notified only in the year 1976. So it appears that there existed a right prior to the PRF notification and enactment of FC Act and the CIL seemed to have continued the operations under the above circumstances.

It is pertinent to mention here that the MoEF vide OM No.Z-11011/3/88-IA.II(M) dated 15.09.1995 gave clearance for the reopening of the Tikok Open Cast Mining subject to various environmental conditions.

Further, on 24th October 2019, a site inspection was carried out by the Regional office, Shillong that concluded as follows:-

- An area of 12.97 ha was broken prior to the 2003
- An area of 44.57 ha from 2003 to 2012 which was still being continually mined in spite of the pendency of the prior approval under FCA.
- The area of 41.39 ha was claimed to be unworked but was found that 9 ha area has been broken and mined and another 7 ha area was cleared perhaps for further mining. Thereby putting the unbroken area at about 25 ha only.

The In Principle Approval was subsequently accorded by the MoEFCC (F.C Division) by way of letter dated 29.12.2019.

In compliance to the IPA accorded,, the following plans has been prepared by the Rain Forest Research Institute, an institute of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and submitted in the year 2017 (**Map of proposed area enclosed**)

- a. Biodiversity Management Plan
- b. Regional Wildlife Plan
- c. Carrying Capacity Study

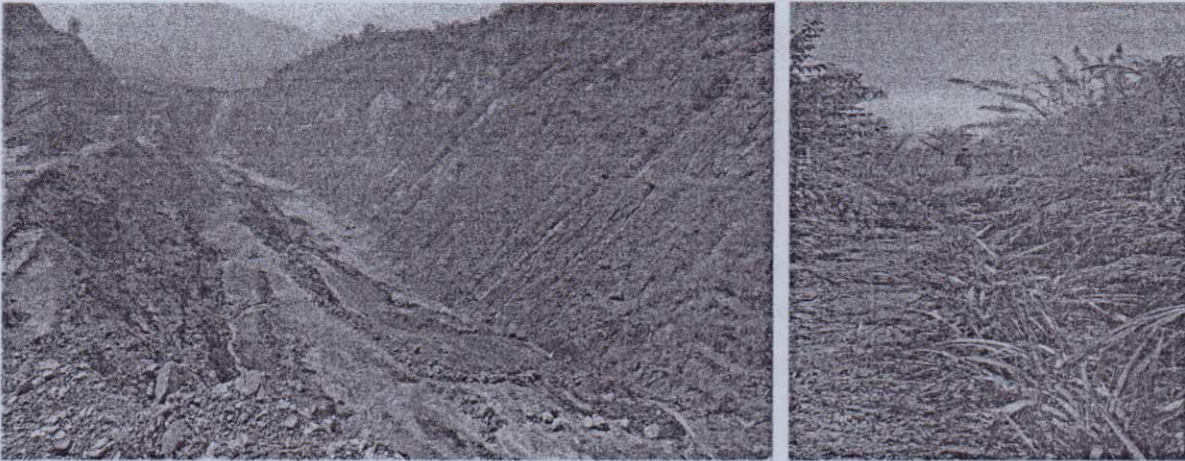
Total budget proposed in the plans is 45.38 Cr.

However recently the DFO Digboi Division and CWLW Assam had submitted a revised budget for Rs 62.5 Cr taking into consideration of cost escalation and some additional requirements (**copy Enclosed**)

The Government of Assam vide Notification dated the 18th July 2020 in the Assam Gazette have constituted a "one man enquiry commission" headed by Justice (Rtd) B.P.Katakey, retired judge of the Hon'ble High Court to enquire into allegations wrt the Tikok OCP. (**copy enclosed**) The exhaustive TOR ^{among} besides others includes enquiry into the alleged illegal coal mining, identification of individuals/ organizations involved, assess the extent of mining,, suggest measures for recovery of loss, restoration, rehabilitation and reclamation etc. The Commission is now actively looking into the matter.

Present status and observations:

The fact finding team visited the mining sites and found that the coal mines previously worked, broken or cleared by the Coal India Limited (CIL) are now totally closed and all activities have come to a complete standstill as was evident by the presence of vegetation in an around the mining sites and the absence of any vehicle tyre tracks on the coal routes with tall grasses growing therein.



Abandoned CIL mine site and nearby unused route covered with vegetation

The team also visited the adjoining townships wherein nearly 50 Collieries/ Coke bhattas are reportedly located. Presently the collieries are not operational, in all probability mainly due to non availability of raw materials (Coal) and to some extent due to the Covid-19 related lockdown. The procurement of raw materials by the huge number of collieries located nearby is open to scrutiny as there is no known source of legally mined coal except for the online auctions by the CIL which many small collieries are unable to access. Moreover, except for the issue of license and the Consent to Operate by the state government, no proper checks and balances and monitoring regime appears to be in place.



A colliery presently not in operation

Various discussions and field observations indicate that there was large scale illegal coal mining by various groups and individuals which were being mined and transported outside under the cover of CIL activities. Though the illegal mining appears to have simultaneously ceased with the closure of the CIL coal mines, there is the eminent danger of the illegal mining activities being re-activated once the CIL commences its mining activities. The complex issue of rampant illegal mining would be the major challenge for the authorities concerned and putting in place a stringent and foolproof mechanism to control it is an imperative and not a choice.

During further discussion on the issue of illegal coal mining in other parts of the division it was informed that an enquiry was earlier conducted by the Assam Forest department in July 2019 by a three-member enquiry team.

The team also had detailed discussion with the local forest officials wrt the importance of the Tikak OCP from the Wildlife and Biodiversity point of view as the Saleki PRF in which the proposed area lies, also forms a part of the ^eDhing Patkai Elephant Reserve (block 3) constituted vide Govt of Assam Notification No FRW 44/2002/67 Dated 17 April 2003 (**copy Enclosed**). It was found that though the OCP forms a part of the larger Elephant Reserve, it is located more than 9 kms away from the Dihing Patkai Wild Life Sanctuary (**Map Enclosed**). Moreover the Eco- Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of the Wild Life Sanctuary as per the Draft Gazette Notification dated 30.05.2019 indicates that the maximum distance of the ESZ is 7.5 kms only. Hence

the Tikak OCP also falls outside of the ESZ of Dihing Patkai WLS. It was further informed that the OCP does not form any part of the elephant corridor and that no movement of elephants in the sites have been observed in recent times.

However, taken the fact that this part of the state is a biodiversity rich area with thick forest cover, it is expected that the aforementioned Biodiversity and Wildlife Plans will be implemented in letter and spirit.

Concluding remarks:


As mentioned earlier, the reopening of the Tikak OCP is likely to trigger a spate of illegal mining activities in and around the sites, under the cover of CIL activities. Therefore a three pronged strategy may be adopted to effectively face the challenge of illegal mining activities. Viz:

- I. Placement of a trained and armed contingent of Special Protection Force to man identified Coal Exit Points and for continuous alert patrolling of areas susceptible to illegal mining
- II. Address the livelihood issues of the nearby community members specially those who are actively engaged in the mining and trading of illegal coal
- III. Impose a moratorium on the local transportation by road, till such time that the availability of legal Coal for the proliferating Coke Bhattas/Collieries is assessed, a mechanism put in place for the sale of legal raw materials and appropriate regulations developed for monitoring and stock verification of the industries.

The CIL may be directed to essentially earmark a certain percentage of their CSR funds for undertaking the above activities and for funding Wildlife and Environment awareness and conservation activities.



Imtiena Ao
Deputy Director General of Forests (Central)
IRO Shillong



C. Mutha Kumarvel
Nodal Officer FC Act. SFD
Government of Assam