

Minutes of the 7th meeting of Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife held on  
23.04.2021 at 11.45 AM in Virtual Conference mode

The meeting was chaired by the Hon"ble Minister, Forest & Environment, Odisha.  
The list of participants is at Annexure-A.

At the outset, the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest & Environment Department, Odisha welcomed the Hon"ble Minister & other members of the Committee and requested the Hon"ble Minister to chair the meeting.

The Hon"ble Minister, welcomed all the members of the Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife and presented an overview of the constitution of the Committee.

The Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife comprises of representatives from scientific institutions as well as peoples" representatives, NGOs dealing with wildlife issues, eminent Conservationists, Ecologists and Environmentalists and Government officials. It plays a crucial role in wildlife protection and conservation.

The Hon"ble Minister, Forest & Environment requested the committee to deliberate on the issues as per the agenda items. The PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha made a detailed presentation on each of the agenda items.

Agenda-1:Review of compliance of the decisions taken in the last meeting of the Standing Committee of the State Board for Wildlife

(i) Proposal for removal of FANI uprooted/damaged trees from Balukhand-Konark Sanctuary:

Compliance: In devastating cyclone FANI, about 5000 ha of Balukhand-Konark Sanctuary in Puri Wildlife Division was damaged. For removal of FANI uprooted/damaged trees from sanctuary area, after approval of State Board for

this matter was referred to Standing Committee of National Board for



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Wildlife. Approval of the same was received from Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife. Accordingly, OFDC is working in the area. So far 17078 no of stacks of firewood have been converted from 635 ha area. Out of this 12641 no. of stacks have been given to EDCs and 400 no have been handed over to OFDC for disposal at Swargadwar and Puri temple. Balance 4037 stacks are in the process of disposal. DFO, Puri has also prepared a scheme for rehabilitation works and the same is under process for approval and implementation.

(ii) Proposal for felling of 36 nos. of trees in Nandankanan Sanctuary for construction of passenger aerial ropeway:

Compliance: After approval of the State Board for Wildlife, the matter was referred to Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife. This was agreed and approved by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife. Accordingly, 36 nos. of trees were removed for taking up the ropeway work. Due to site conditions tree translocation could not be taken up.

Agenda-2: Improvement of Jetty & Public Rain Shelter at Nimtala in Bhadrak District

The Directorate of Ports & Inland Water Transport under Commerce & Transport (Com) Department in Government of Odisha provides landing & berthing facilities for motor launch and mechanized boats along the Odisha coast by improving the existing ferry ghat to passenger Jetty & Public Rain Shelter.

Nimtala in Bhadrak District is situated on the left bank of River Dhamara. Commerce & Transport (Com) Department has provided motor launch services from Chandbali to Talchua via Nimtala & vice versa to facilitate the communication system through Inland Water Transport as there is no road connectivity to Nimtala & its nearby villages from Dhamara & Talchua.

Since long, the stone pitched ferry ghat is used by the local public. The passengers are facing a lot of difficulties to get-in & get down especially in low tide situation throughout the year. Hence, it is proposed to improve the old existing ferry ghat into all-weather RCC Jetty (for landing & berthing of launches) & Public Rain Shelter (for waiting & sheltering of passengers) for convenience of the public with an estimated cost of Rs.210.00Lakhs.

The proposed site for establishment of Jetty & Public Rain Shelter is located between Latitude 20<sup>o</sup>47'37.41"N and Longitude 85<sup>o</sup>52'01.62"E. Total land requirement for the project is 0.08Ha which is entirely Revenue Land & comes under village Nimatala in Mouza-Raj Rajeswari Palli, Plot No.310, Khata No. 138, Kissam- Gochar of Chandbali Tahasil of Bhadrak District.

The proposed area for construction of Passenger Jetty & Public Rain Shelter is coming under Eco Sensitive Zone of Bhitarkanika National Park and it is not coming under any Protected area of National Park. The area is barest minimum for the project as per exploration made in EIA/EMP study report for establishment of passenger Jetty & Public Rain Shelter by Government of Odisha, Commerce & Transport (Com) Department.

The PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha has recommended the proposal with following conditions.

1. Construction work will not be taken up after sunset.
2. No waste material to be thrown in the river where Jetty will be constructed.
3. The jetty will be open for use by boats/trawlers of Bhadrak WL Division without any cost.
4. As and when necessity arises, the DFO may regulate the movement of boats/trawlers from this Jetty for protection and conservation of wildlife in the sanctuary.

In the meeting, Dr. Bivash Pandav, Member suggested not to use artificial bright lights in the area.

Decision: After much deliberation over the matter, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal along with the conditions stipulated by the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha and the opinion offered by Dr. Bivash Pandav, Member.

Agenda-3: Improvement of Jetty & Public Rain Shelter at Kasturikana in Bhadrak District

The Directorate of Ports & Inland Water Transport under Commerce & Transport (Com) Department in Government of Odisha provides landing & berthing facilities for motor launch and mechanized boats along the Odisha coast by improving the existing ferry ghat to passenger Jetty & Public Rain Shelter.

Kasturikana in Bhadrak District is situated on the left side of Galia Nala a branch of River Dhamara. Commerce & Transport (Com) Department has provided motor launch services from Chandbali to Talchua via Kasturikana & vice versa to facilitate the communication system through Inland Water Transport as there is no road connectivity to Kasturikana & its nearby villages from Nalitapatia, Dhamara & Talchua.

Since long, the stone pitched ferry ghat is used by the local public. The passengers are facing a lot of difficulties to get-in & get down especially in low tide situation throughout the year. Hence, it is proposed to improve the old existing ferry ghat into all-weather RCC Jetty (for landing & berthing of launches) & Public Rain Shelter (for waiting & sheltering of passenger) for convenience of the public with an estimated cost of Rs.190.00Lakhs.

The proposed site for construction of Jetty & Public Rain Shelter is located between Latitude 20<sup>0</sup>45'48.97"N and Longitude 85<sup>0</sup>49'00.90"E. Total land requirement for the project is 0.08Ha which is entirely Revenue Land & comes under village Bhaghanata in Mouza-Kasturikana, Plot No.405/1521, 1046/1522, Khata No.272, Kissam-Abadjogya Anabadi of Chandbali Tahasil of Bhadrak District.

The proposed area for construction of Passenger Jetty & Public Rain Shelter, although coming under Eco Sensitive Zone of Bhitarkanika National Park, it is not coming under any Protected area of National Park. The area is barest minimum for the project as per exploration made in EIA/EEMP study report for establishment of passenger Jetty & Public Rain Shelter by Government of Odisha, Commerce & Transport (Com) Department.

The PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha has recommended the proposal with following conditions.

1. Construction work will not be taken up after sunset.
2. No waste material to be thrown in the river where Jetty will be constructed.
3. The jetty will be open for use by boats/trawlers of Bhadrak WL Division without any cost.
4. As and when necessity arises, the DFO may regulate the movement of boats/trawlers from this Jetty for protection and conservation of wildlife in the sanctuary.

In the meeting, Dr. Bivash Pandav, Member suggested not to use artificial bright lights in the area.

Decision: After much deliberation over the matter, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal along with the conditions stipulated by the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha and the opinion offered by Dr. Bivash Pandav, Member.

Agenda-4: Widening and strengthening of Baripada-Bamanghaty Road (from Bisoi to Rairangpur) SH-50 from 0.00Km to 26.00Km to Double Lane with paved shoulder under Interstate Connectivity Scheme

The Executive Engineer, Rairangpur R & B Division has applied for NBWL Clearance on dt. 07.01.2019 vide proposal no. FP/OR/ROAD/3790/2019 for widening and strengthening of Baripada-Bamanghaty road (from Bisoi to Rairangpur). There are 203 nos. of miscellaneous trees which need to be felled in between 0/0 km to 11/0 km. Although this portion of the road is coming within Eco-sensitive zone of Similipal Sanctuary yet there is no visible impact on any wildlife. There is no movement of elephants in this portion of SH-50. Online Wildlife Clearance proposal has been uploaded by Rairangpur division on 24.06.2020 and hard copy of the same has been submitted to the FD, STR-cum-RCCF, Baripada vide DFO Office Memo. No. 3553 dt. 07.08.2020.

The PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha has forwarded the proposal for wildlife clearance to the Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt., F & E Department vide his Letter no. 8525 dt. 20.10.2020 with the following recommendations.

"Though the user agency has applied for NBWL clearance but this project doesn't require prior clearance from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife as per clarification issued by Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (wildlife divisions) vide their Letter in F-No6-60/2020 WL Part (I) dt. 16.07.2020."

Decision: After much deliberation over the matter, the Standing Committee agreed to the recommendation of the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha regarding non-requirement of Wildlife Clearance for the proposal in view of the clarification issued by Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (WL Division) vide their

Letter in F-No6-60/2020 WL Part (I) dt. 16.07.2020. Addl. Chief Secretary, F & E dept. advised PCCF & HoFF to issue a letter in this regard to the field reiterating the instructions given in the said circular to be scrupulously followed hence forth by the field forest officials concerned.

#### Agenda-5: Rationalization of boundary of Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary of Kalahandi South Division

The area of Karlapat WL Sanctuary as notified in the year 1992 was 147.66 sq. km. As per the Working Plan prescriptions (1997-98 to 2006-07) by Sri K.R. Singh, IFS, the PA area is found to be 175.50 Sq. Km in the field and the DFO, Kalahandi South Division was asked for necessary correction. The Management Plan has also been prepared for the PA area based on the GPS coordinates of the boundary (175.50 Sq Km).

In order to overcome this anomaly, the Boundary of the WL Sanctuary is now Geo Referenced based on the Boundary of WL Sanctuary shown in Revenue Village cadastral sheets. After geo-referencing of Cadastral Map of villages around Sanctuary, the PA area comes to 184.63 Sq. Km. In addition, the boundary of the Sanctuary is proposed to be extended in 5 locations due to presence of Dense to Moderate Dense Forest, which are contiguous to existing area and potential habitat for wildlife. There is No addition of New Villages and there are No pending Forest Right Claims. With the above addition of five patches of forest area, the Total area of Sanctuary is 198.318 sq. km. Considering the facts of movement of wild animals, vegetation density, biotic pressure by the villagers and presence of Bauxite Reserves, an inward shifting of Southern Boundary of the Sanctuary is proposed in 2 locations by which an area of 4.32 sq. km. of Sanctuary Area need exclusion. After the reduction of 4.32 sq. km, the revised final area of Sanctuary is 193.998 sq. km which is 9.368 sq. km area more than the actual Notified Area. Therefore, in order to rationalize boundary/area of Karlapat WL Sanctuary to 193.998 sq.km, with the proposed additions and deletions to the existing area, the proposal is placed before the Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife for kind consideration

and approval.

In the meeting, Dr. Bivash Pandav, Member raised the issue of Bauxite Reserves towards the southern part of the sanctuary. It was clarified that it is not the main consideration for exclusion of area. Rather biotic pressure and degraded area are the main reasons for exclusion. The net area of the sanctuary is going to increase after this exercise.

Decision: After much deliberation over the matter and in view of net increase in the area of the sanctuary, the Standing Committee agreed to the proposal and recommended the same to be placed before the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.

#### Agenda-6: Rationalization of boundary of Sunabeda Sanctuary

The Sunabeda sanctuary with area of 600 sq. km was notified under Section 18 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 vide notification no. 8F(W)40/88-10772/F.F.A.H dt. 10.05.1988 of the erstwhile Forest Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Department of Odisha in supersession of the previous notifications during the year 1983 & 1986. With passing of time the human population of the enclaved Revenue villages -30 nos. and encroached villages -22 nos. went on increasing manifold, exerting severe adverse anthropogenic pressure on Forest and wildlife conservation. As the villagers are deprived from the basic govt. facilities, they are going on agitating against the sanctuary management and district administration leading to unfavourable conditions for wildlife conservation. So, it is imperative to exclude some village area from the sanctuary and to include some good quality forest to compensate the same. Forest area 2465.128 ha and Revenue area 8500.718 ha totalling to 10965.846 ha is proposed to be excluded. The reasons for exclusion of these areas are

1. The villages are contiguous and thickly populated.
2. More open space and cultivated land is found in the area.
3. The density of forest growth is less.

4. It will not affect adversely to wildlife habitat.

In the process of proposed rationalization, 21 nos. of revenue villages, 09 nos. of encroached villages, 16 nos. of hamlets, total 46 nos. of habitations are proposed to be excluded. An area of 13113.00 ha of Patdarha PRF of Khariar Forest Division is proposed to be included in the sanctuary. The reasons for inclusion of new forest are

1. It is adjoining to sanctuary boundary line i.e. Indranadi.
2. It is an excellent wildlife habitat having good vegetation cover.
3. The area witnesses regular wildlife presence.
4. It is devoid of human settlement.

The detail statement of addition and exclusion of area of sanctuary is furnished below.

Particulars	Forest area in ha	Revenue & village area in ha	Total area in ha
Existing Area of sanctuary	50955.12	9044.88	60000.00
Area proposed to be excluded	2465.128	8500.718	10965.846
Balance area	48489.992	544.162	49034.154
Area proposed to be included	13113.00	-	13113.00
Total area of sanctuary after proposed rationalization	61602.992	544.162	62147.154

As mentioned above, due to rationalization of boundary, the total area of the proposed sanctuary comes to 62147.154 ha against the old area of 60000 ha.

In the meeting, Dr. Bivash Pandav, Member raised the issue of re-introduction of Hard Ground Barasingha species in Sunabeda Sanctuary and suggested for in-situ species recovery programme by inducting few individuals from Kanha Tiger Reserve. PCCF (WL) and CWLW, Odisha requested to provide a concept note in this regard to implement the suggestion.

Decision: After much deliberation over the matter and in view of net increase in area of the sanctuary and reduction in conflict with the villagers, the Standing Committee agreed to the proposal and recommended the same to be placed before the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.

Agenda-7: Wildlife clearance for 0.788 Ha from Kapilash Sanctuary out of 24.188 Ha of forest land proposed for diversion for construction of 3rd & 4th line between Budhapanka-Salegaon Railway Project (0.00Km - 85.00 Km) under Dhenkanal/ Athgarh Division by East Coast Railway

The Deputy Chief Engineer, (Con-I), East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar has applied for diversion of 0.788 ha of Forest Land in Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary (total area of the sanctuary 125.5 sq. km) for construction of 3rd and 4th Line between Budhapanka-Salegaon Railway Project. The Railway line consists of the following.

Total forest area involved	Total forest area involved in Dhenkanal Division	Total Kapilash Sanctuary area involved
24.188 ha	13.988 ha	0.788 ha

The proposal was recommended by the Divisional Forest Officer, Dhenkanal

Division on dt. 23.11.2020 with the following observations.

1. The diversion falls in Compartment No-1 and at the very edge of the sanctuary.
2. Elephants move from Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary to Godabolua RF and further into Athagarh Division Forest Area by crossing over the existing two Railway tracks.
3. Impact of the proposal through habitat loss will be negligible.
4. This part of the sanctuary is not a Critical Wildlife Habitat.
5. The construction of 3rd and 4th Railway line will not make much difference to use of overall Wildlife Habitat of Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary.

The PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha has recommended the proposal for wildlife clearance to the Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt., F & E Department vide his Letter No. 4114 dt. 15.04.2021 with the following conditions -

This railway line bisects the sanctuary. With the addition of two more lines traffic load will increase. To maintain continuity of the habitat an overpass over railway line in sanctuary area as per "Eco-friendly measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife" issued by Wildlife Institute of India, is stipulated to maintain the continuity of sanctuary and neighbouring landscape of Athagarh, Dhenkanal and Cuttack divisions.

In the meeting, Dr. (Mrs.) Priyambada Mohanty (Hejmadi), Member, suggested that the overpass construction should commence simultaneously along with construction of railway line. To implement the same, PCCF and HoFF suggested to keep it as a precondition before handing over of land for proposed expansion.

Decision: After much deliberation over the matter, the Standing Committee agreed to the proposal and recommended the same to be placed before the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife. Overpass work should start simultaneously with the railway line construction work and should be completed expeditiously.

Agenda-8: Wildlife clearance for 7.562 Ha of land from Kapilash Sanctuary out of

proposal for diversion of 423.1727 Ha of forest land for construction of balance portion of LBC & RBC of Rengali Irrigation Project

The Chief Engineer, JICA Projects, Brahamani Left Basin, Sukinda has applied for NBWL clearance of 7.562 ha. of Forest Land inside Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary (total area of the sanctuary is 125.5 sq.km) and 24.392 ha in the eco-sensitive zone of Kapilash Wildlife sanctuary for construction of Darpani Branch Canal System. The Darpani Branch Canal System consists of the following.

Sl. No.	Canal Name	Proposed sanctuary area (Ha)	Proposed ESZ area (Ha)	Non-forest area (Ha)	Total area (Ha)
1.	Darpani Branch canal	7.123	10.226	0.739	18.088
2.	Kasiapada sub-minor	0.439	2.723	-	3.162
3.	Gundichapada distributary	-	10.471	2.45	12.921
4.	Nadiali Minor	-	0.972	1.848	2.82
Total area:		7.562	24.392	5.037	36.991

The proposed design involves cut and closure of the canal in the entire Kapilash Wildlife sanctuary area. The proposal was recommended by the Divisional Forest Officer, Dhenkanal Division on dt. 07.04.2021 with the following observations.

- The diversion falls in Compartment no-1 of Kapilash wildlife sanctuary.
- Elephants move from Kapilash wildlife sanctuary to Godabolua RF and further into Athagarh division forest area through this area.
- Impact of the proposal through habitat loss will be negligible.
- Since the project proponents have designed the canal as cut and closure, there will not be any problem for passage of elephants and other wildlife.

The PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha has recommended the proposal with following conditions-

- As per information provided by the Irrigation authorities this total length of 682 meters of Darpani branch canal and 60 meters of Kasiapada sub minor canal shall be constructed in cut and cover method with minimum 2 meters soil cover on the slab. This canal in cut and cover method shall not affect continuity of the habitat.
- For 24.392 ha area falling under eco-sensitive zone (for which NBWL clearance is not required) and other adjoining areas a site-specific wildlife conservation plan should be prepared to mitigate the effects of the project.

In the meeting Dr. Bivash Pandav, Member suggested to adopt (apart from cut and cover method) construction of canals in future irrigation projects in wildlife habitats without concrete lining of the sidewalls. The sidewalls of the canals should only be earthen embankments that can be enriched with appropriate grass species and riverine vegetation which will not only facilitate access of wild animals to water but also can be developed as good wildlife habitats.

Decision: After much deliberation over the matter, the Standing Committee agreed to the proposal and recommended the same to be placed before the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.

Agenda-9: Any other matter with permission of the Chair

Apart from above, the Committee received following suggestions from the Hon"ble members.

- The PCCF & HoFF, Odisha suggested to consider recommending for deletion of Rule5(4)(j) of CAF Rules, 2018 which forbids establishment, expansion and upgradation of Zoo and Wildlife safari.
- Sri Raj Kishore Das, Hon"ble MLA, Moroda suggested for implementing time

bound programme for relocation of villages from core area of Similipal Tiger Reserve and taking steps for declaring it as a National Park. He also suggested for promoting 5 boys and 5 girls from surrounding villages for containing forest fire inside Similipal Tiger Reserve by providing them ration or monetary incentive. He also suggested to consider excavation of drains alongside forest roads to act as fire lines to check spread of forest fire inside Similipal.

- Sri Samir Kumar Pradhan, Member suggested for construction of more water harvesting structures at Pakidi and tracing of more fire lines to contain forest fire.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

(Approved through OSWAS  
on 30.04.2021)  
Hon"ble Minister,

Forest & Environment, Odisha

List of members present –

1. Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment Chairman
2. Sri Raj Kishore Das, Hon'ble MLA
3. Dr. Rajani Kanta Jena
4. Sri P.R.Mohanty, IFS (Retd.)
5. Dr. Bivash Pandav
6. Sri Samir Kumar Pradhan
7. Dr. (Mrs.) Priyambada Mohanty (Hejmadi)
8. Sri Madhusudhana Kanhar
9. ACS, Forest & Environment Department
10. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha
11. Director, Wildlife Preservation, Government of India
12. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha