

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

6th Floor, Vayu Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi-110003

F.No.6-30/2015 WL (33rd Meeting)
Dated: 9th April 2015

To
All Members,
Standing Committee of NBWL.

Sub: Minutes of 33rd Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL.

Sir/Madam,

Kindly find enclosed copy of the minutes of the 33rd Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 14th March 2015 at 11.00 AM in Teesta & Brahmaputra", 1st Floor, Vayu Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi-110003 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

Yours faithfully,

R. Rajasekhar
(Rajasekhar Ratti) 09/04/2015

Scientist 'C'/Deputy Director (WL)

Encl: As above

Distribution:

1. Secretary, MoEF & CC
2. Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF & CC.
3. Member Secretary, NTCA, New Delhi.
4. Addl. Director General of Forests (WL), MoEF&CC.
5. Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
6. Director, GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
7. Prof. R.Sukumar, Central for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
8. Dr. H.S. Singh, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat.
9. Pr. Secretary (Forests), Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

Copy to:

1. PPS to Hon'ble MOS (I/C) E&F.
2. PPS to DGF&SS.
3. PPS to Addl.DGF(WL) and Member Secretary, Standing Committee (NBWL).
4. PPS to IGF(WL)/PS to DIG(WL)/PS to JD(WL).

Minutes of the 33rd Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 14th March 2015 at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bag Road, New Delhi.

The 33rd Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) was held on 14th March 2015 in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forests and Climate Change. Representative of Andhra Pradesh could not participate in the meeting.

Hon'ble Chairman welcomed all participants to the 33rd Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL and requested the Member Secretary to initiate the discussions on the agenda items.

The agenda items were then taken up for discussion.

Agenda No. 1:

Confirmation of the minutes of the 33rd Meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 21st January 2015.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the minutes of the 33rd Meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL held on 21st January 2015 were circulated to all members of the Standing Committee on 20th February 2015. He added that no comments were received on the minutes. Accordingly the minutes of 33rd meeting were confirmed.

Agenda No. 2: Action Taken Report on the decisions of the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 32nd Meeting held on 21st January 2014

31.4.1. Proposal for use of 2.3 ha of Dirok Tea Estate land falling within 10 kms from the boundary of Dehing-Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary for drilling of appraisal well, Assam by M/s Hindustan Oil Corporation Ltd.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee on the proposal. In 31st meeting, member Dr. R Sukumar was requested to take up a site visit and present the report to the Committee and the matter was deferred in the 32nd meeting as the site visit could not materialize.

Dr. Sukumar informed the committee that he would complete the site inspection within a week and submit the report. The Standing Committee took note of this and requested Dr. Sukumar for an early action.

4.2 (7) Proposal for diversion of 0.3514 ha of forestland falling in Majathal Wildlife Sanctuary, Himachal Pradesh for drawing water from Pazeena Khad in favour of Executive Engineer, I&PH Division Arki, District Solan.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee on the proposal. The matter was discussed in 32nd meeting in which Chief Wildlife Warden Himachal Pradesh was requested to conduct a

site inspection, provide information on quantum of existing water usage by wildlife and local communities and also provide a workable plan for use of water from the water source which is located within the sanctuary.

Since the Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh was not present in the meeting, the proposal was deferred by the Standing Committee.

32.4.1.22. Proposal for exclusion of 228.87 sq km from Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary for rationalization of the boundary of the sanctuary, Odisha

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee on the proposal. The matter related to proposal of exclusion of area from the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972. Standing Committee had requested Prof Sukumar member to visit the area and apprise the committee on the matter. Dr.R. Sukumar stated that he, along with a representative of NTCA, had completed conducted the site inspection and had discussed the matter with the state authorities. He presented an interim report stating that a few errors in boundary demarcation and a few suggestions had been given to the state related to the area in the proposal. Dr. R.Sukumar stated that state government of Orissa was by and large agreeable for re-demarcation of boundary and a new proposal is required to be drafted. Committee agreed to the suggestion and representative of Odisha was requested to recast the proposal accordingly. Prof Sukumar was requested to make the report available at the earliest.

32.4.1.24. 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 in favour of the North-Frontier Railway, Jalpaiguri for construction of Sevok Rongpo New Broad Gauge Railway line, West Bengal.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee on the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden of West Bengal informed that State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) had been reconstituted and the proposal had been recommended by the SBWL. He informed that the condition imposed by the Standing Committee for survey, of declaring a sanctuary in lower Teesta basin had been implemented and notification will be issued shortly. The Committee, recognizing that the area has been facing train accidents of wild elephants along the east west tracks, requested Dr.R.Sukumar to conduct site inspection along with a representative of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and submit report by 15th April 2015.

32.4.2 (5).Proposal for Wildlife clearance to development of residential township (198.801 acres) at Sector-3, 4 & 4A, village IslamnagarPinjore-Kalka Urban complex, Panchkula, Haryana.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee on the proposal. Member Dr Bharat Pathak presented the findings of his team in the site inspection of the area. He informed that the

location of the project is a wide valley Ghaggar river in the Shivaliks between two sanctuaries namely Bir Shikargarh and Sukhna and a number of construction and development activities were already existing in the area. Some constructions were noticed even on the river bed. These unplanned human habitations growths with other related infrastructure have already severely compromised the ecological integrity of this landscape. He suggested that while it may not be useful to restrict the proposed project in the middle of several existing ones in the area, all the river systems between Bir Shikargarh WLS and Kohl-hi-Raitan WLS such as Ghagghar, Mala Nadi, Jabrot etc may be included in the Eco-Sensitive Zone of these protected areas.

After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with mitigation measures along with the conditions prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden as follows:

1. *On the west river bank of January River and in the adjacent land, patch is covered by dense forest between the proposed project land and the river. No activity is allowed harmful to the protection of this dense forest.*
2. *The project applicant company shall stabilize cliffs on the both banks (west and east) by appropriate civil works as well as by afforestation works.*
3. *Water and soil conservation works will be done by the company at its own expenses.*
4. *Company will develop green belt as per the plan approved by the competent authority.*
5. *Rainwater harvesting and water treatment plants will be developed by the company.*
6. *8 feet high wall along the sanctuary side/part of the township site will be constructed so that no wildlife enter into township to be developed by the company.*
7. *Company will not use such equipment which create pollution.*

32.4.2 (23). Proposal for collection of River Bed Material (RBM) from the river bed of river Rawasan River Part-2 (100.59 ha), district Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

32.4.2 (24). Proposal for collection of River Bed Material (RBM) from the river bed of river Bishanpur (237.918 ha), district Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

32.4.2 (25). Collection of River Bed Material (RBM) from the river bed of ganga river Rawasan Part-2 (99.79 ha) distt. Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

32.4.2 (26). Collection of River Bed Material (RBM) from the river bed of Ganga river at Shyampur (219.442 ha) distt. Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

32.4.2 (27). Collection of River Bed Material (RBM) from the river bed of Ganga river at Pilli (131.31 ha) distt. Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee on the proposal. Dr.R. Sukumar who was deputed to undertake inspection of the site, requested the Standing Committee to depute WII in his place for site inspection as the Institute had previous experience of conducting such studies in the same area.

Hon'ble Chairman stated that sand mining in the river beds is being carried out in an arbitrary and unscientific manner which has been destroying the rivers. He suggested that scientific assessment of the sand deposits in the area based on satellite imagery in the month of November (after the monsoon period) should be made the basis for preparation of a sustainable sand mining plan for the whole river stretch in the state.

After discussions, the Standing Committee decided that a team comprising of a representative of WII, Inspector General of Forests NTCA and Chief Wild Life Warden Uttarakhand will undertake a site visit to evaluate the Environment Impact Assessment, Environment Clearance related conditions and possible implications of the proposal and submit the report to the Standing Committee for further consideration.

32.5.(i) Establishment of Zoo Safari at Rajgir in Pant Wildlife Sanctuary in Nalanda District, Bihar.

The Member Secretary informed that member Dr H S Singh had been requested to undertake the visit of the area and furnish the facts to the Committee. He stated that Rajgir is a major pilgrimage center of Buddhism and Jainism for National and International visitors. Dr.H.S.Singh recommended the project with following conditions.

1. Excavation and construction works shall be strictly in consultation with Archeological Survey of India.
2. Planning and designing of zoo safari shall be carried out by professional firm and under through examination of Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and prior approval shall be obtained by CZA.
3. Rescue center, Residential buildings, Cafeteria, shops etc. should be away from the premises of the sanctuary.

After discussions the Standing Committee taking note of the fact that the project will be further appraised by CZA and will need approval of Honourable Supreme Court also, recommended the proposal with the conditions suggested by Dr H S Singh.

5. Electrification of Railway Track through Rajaji National Park between Haridwar and Dehradun in Uttarakhand.

With the permission of Chair, the proposal of Northern Railway on electrification of railway track between Haridwar and Dehradun passing through Rajaji National Park was placed before the committee for consideration.

This proposal was earlier discussed in the 32nd meeting of NBWL. In the said meeting, the Chief Wildlife Warden of Uttarakhand had assured the committee that a meeting of SBWL would be convened soon.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand updated the committee that the SBWL had been reconstituted and the proposal would be placed before it for consideration.

The Member Secretary added that the recommendation of SBWL may be obtained at earliest to enable the Standing Committee to consider the proposal. Hon'ble Chairman requested Dr.Sukumar to conduct site inspection along with a representative of WII and a representative of NTCA to assess possible implications on wildlife and suggest mitigation measures.

Agenda no. 3: Discussions on Policy Matters

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee on the policy related issues for consideration before the Standing Committee. The following agenda points were discussed in the meeting:

1. Rules of procedure for Standing Committee:

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that a sub-committee under the chairmanship of Dr. M K Ranjitsinh was formed by the Standing Committee in 2012 for drafting the rules of procedures for conduct of the meetings of the Standing Committee. The committee prepared draft rules and these were also circulated to the members of the Standing Committee. He added that some of the recommendations of sub-committee have already been incorporated in the new on-line system for wildlife clearance which will become operational from 1st April 2015. He added that the High Powered Committee under the chairmanship of Shri T.S.R. Subramanian had also recommended to make clearance process more efficient.

After discussion, the Standing Committee noted the further reforms in the clearance process and therefore decided to drop the matter and decided to follow the NBWL rules for its mandate, procedure and deliberations.

2. Implementation Protocol on Critical Wildlife Habitats to be approved by SC NBWL

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA) provides for modification of forest rights only in the Critical Wild Life Habitats (CWH) within Protected Areas in accordance with section 4(2) of the said Act. However, there was no provision for declaring CWH in the Act as such, except its definition, where it is indicated that CWH is to be determined and notified by Central Government in MoEF.

The Inspector General of Forests (WL) informed that earlier, a draft protocol was circulated for discussion in the Standing Committee. He added that based on further study of the matter, it was observed that the legal provisions related to the mandate of MoEF&CC vis a vis centre state matters on notification of areas, power of MoEF&CC to "notify" CWH and its utility

in ensuring tribal rights needed clarification. Therefore, legal and policy position on this matter has been referred to Ministry of Tribal Affairs to suggest examination and modification, to ensure protection of rights in all the forests and not restrict the precautionary principles to only the CWH, which is presently restricted to be only 'within the PAs'.

Dr. H.S. Singh mentioned that it had been eight years since the FRA has been enacted and the uncertainty in the provisions of the Act has been creating lot of problems especially encroachments in National Parks and Sanctuary land. He suggested that the matter should be taken up with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs forthwith and guidelines issued on this soon. IGF elaborated that documentation of forest rights is a separate matter and the issue of notification of CWH has been taken up in context of linkage of forest rights with wild life conservation.

The Committee, after discussions, decided that the outcome of the inter-Ministerial consultations be placed before the Standing Committee for consideration.

3. Status of the identified species under Species Recovery Programme

The Member Secretary mentioned that a component of Species Recovery was also added in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat' in 11th Five Year Plan. Accordingly, 16 species were identified in consultation with NBWL for species recovery programme under the scheme. Jerdon's Courser was subsequently added to the list. As the plan outlay for wildlife sector has been declining for last several years, substantial assistance could not be provided. He mentioned that the possibility of study of conservation status of these species in the country through IUCN India are being explored.

The Inspector General of Forests (WL) informed that it has also been proposed to engage Corporate/Public Sector enterprises to partner in conservation measures for the identified species from amongst the 16 critically endangered species and the modalities for partnership and cooperation are being worked out in the Ministry. Snow leopard and Great Indian Bustard are some of the prominent ones.

Prof. Sukumar suggested that besides IUCN, other institutions of national repute may also be involved in the status survey of the species as also in the recovery programme. IGFWL informed that it was being done.

After discussions, the Standing Committee decided that the Wildlife Division of the Ministry would do follow-up with the respective State/UT Governments and also identify institutions for taking up recovery of critically endangered species.

4. Ecologically Sensitive Zones around PAs (ESZ)

The Member Secretary informed that the Standing Committee members in the earlier meetings had desired that the ESZ proposals from the states be shared with them and their assistance be taken for processing the proposals. Ministry had consultations with the states and Wild Life Institute of India on this. Presently the proposals are being scrutinised accordingly and more than 200 proposals are in the advance stage of notification.

Standing Committee members took note of the information.

5. Rationalization of boundaries of Desert National Park, Rajasthan:

The Member Secretary informed that a team of the members of the Standing Committee consisting of Dr M K Ranjitsinh and Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda had prepared a report on the proposal for rationalization of the boundary of Desert National Park. The report was made available to the Rajasthan Government. Keeping in view the fact that large areas of privately owned lands, often agricultural and human dominated areas are part of the present sanctuary, it was recommended to rationalize the boundaries to take out some such areas from the sanctuary and manage some of the parts of the habitats intensively. Rajasthan state needs to consider these recommendations.

The Standing Committee, after discussions, requested the Chief Wildlife Warden to take note of the facts and propose action as appropriate in the best interest of the conservation with cooperation of the local people of the area.

6. Protection of Great Indian Bustard

The Member Secretary mentioned that the matter on conservation of Great Indian Bustards (GIB) has been taken up under the Species Recovery Programme. Concurrent action for 'in situ' and conservation breeding of the GIB is being attempted. States of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat are collaborating in this attempt. Wild Life Institute of India is technical partner. Financial support for this programme is a key factor,.

The Standing Committee while noting the present position requested that the Ministry may expedite the conservation breeding programme and also simultaneously explore additional funding support for meeting the programme objectives.

7. Important Wild Life Corridors – legal status

The Member Secretary mentioned that the members of the previous Standing Committee were of the opinion that important wildlife corridors may be accorded legal status under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 so that the management thereof can be regulated from conservation point of view. He further informed that with respect to elephant corridors, a Committee of experts including members of the Project Elephant Steering Committee was already working on this aspect. For other cases, the concept of ESZ in the periphery of PAs was actually developed for regulating the land use in non forest areas outside PAs. In the present Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, sufficient provisions of notification of forest/ non forest areas as PAs were available, subject to the pre-conditions given in FRA.

The Committee felt that adequate protection needs to be accorded to important wildlife corridors and that the Ministry would work out a strategy of feasible means including legal as well as programmatic interventions like peoples participation for giving protection to areas serving as corridors.

8. Wild Life (Protection) Act amendment Bill

The Member Secretary mentioned that the Standing Committee members had desired that the Standing Committee be consulted on the proposed amendment of Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill 2013. The proposed Bill was discussed by a group of members, and their comments were placed before the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Science Technology Environment and Climate Change. The Committee had also heard the group subsequently. Now the proposed amendment bill has been agreed to be withdrawn for a detailed review of the Act. Initial work on the review of the Act is being undertaken in the Ministry.

The Standing Committee noted the agenda.

9. Agenda items proposed by Dr. H.S. Singh:

1. Landscape planning-

Dr. H.S. Singh suggested that some connectivity needs to be maintained between the Protected Areas. He suggested that for this purpose, management planning should be taken up at landscape basis so that the management plans of adjoining areas are not contradictory in approach and support conservation across the landscapes.

After discussions, the Standing Committee taking note of the fact that national forest policy and national wildlife action plan are under evaluation, agreed that these concept can be

made part of deliberations thereof. Accordingly guidelines can be framed for dealing with the areas adjacent to the PAs wherever corridor value is recognised for continuity of the habitats.

2. Linear projects-

Dr. H.S. Singh mentioned that several proposals for construction of roads and railways are being considered by the Standing Committee. However, mandatory mitigation measures for such projects are often not being taken up. He added that animal passages must be an integral part of mitigation measure of these proposals. IG WL informed that in the 31st meeting WII had been advised to develop standard designs of linear infrastructure suited for various habitats.

After discussions, the Standing Committee suggested that Wildlife Institute of India will formulate guidelines in this regard and the draft may be placed before the Standing Committee for consideration.

3. Change in approach in Zoo Management-

Member Dr H S Singh suggested that the animals captured in the process of management of human wildlife conflict have been increasing and it is becoming difficult for forest department to manage the large number of such animals in small cages in rescue centres. He suggested that the captured animals can be located in closed areas for animal safaris in near wild environment which can also serve the purpose of education and awareness.

The Member Secretary, NTCA informed that the concept of Animal Safari are already under consideration in the central Zoo Authority. He added that in Maharashtra, a model Leopard Safari was being planned wherein there was large number of rescued leopards. The rescued animals could be rehabilitated in the Zoo safaris.

4. Proposal for declaring Asiatic Lion as India's National Animal

The Member Secretary informed that the Ministry had received a request from Shri Parimal Nathwani, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) for considering the Asiatic Lion as the National Animal of India. As the decision of declaring the National Animal was taken by the Indian Board for Wildlife (now the National Board for Wildlife), the matter was placed for consideration before the Standing Committee of NBWL.

After discussions, the Standing Committee decided that wider consultations on the matter would be required before taking any final decision. The Committee requested the Ministry to consider taking necessary action for having wider consultations on the matter.

Agenda No. 4.

4.1 Proposals within Protected Areas.

33.4.1.1. Diversion of 22.35 ha (8.85 ha in Eagle Nest Wildlife Sanctuary and 13.50 ha in Sessa Orchid Sanctuary) forestland for improvement/widening of existing Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) road from 50.00 km to 88.00 km by BRTF in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Committee enquired from representative of Chief Wildlife Warden whether there is any elephant movement across the proposed road. The representative of Chief Wildlife Warden explained that road does not have any elephant movement across it.

Considering the importance of road from strategic point of view, the Committee recommended the proposal with the conditions prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden and SBWL that no explosives will be used in the cutting work, disposal of debris will be done based on a muck disposal plan (plan for disposal of waste/debris) prepared by the user agency and implemented under the supervision of Chief Wildlife Warden, and appropriate signages, crossing corridors for wild animals at appropriate locations and designing of slopes along the road, to avoid accidental falls of animals, in consultation with the Wild Life Warden. It was also agreed that while on his site visit to Sikkim, Prof R Sukumar will also visit the area and suggest if any specific corridors are to be secured with special designs.

33.4.1.2. Proposal for the use 151.82 ha area of Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary for Shirapur Lift Irrigation Project proposal Ta.North Solapur, Distt., Solapur, Maharashtra. The proposed site falls within GIB and within 10 kms from the sanctuary area.

The member secretary briefed the committee on the proposal. Of the total area of 151.82 ha area required for the canal work, 92.99 ha area is located within the sanctuary and 58.83 ha area lies outside the sanctuary.

After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with the conditions of SBWL. Further, 2% of the project cost shall be used for conservation and protection of wildlife under the supervision of Chief Wildlife Warden, with the following conditions laid down by the Chief Wildlife Warden:

- i. Canals will be covered in the existing sanctuary area, to prevent permanent changes in the habitat for normal movement of wildlife.*
- ii. Grasslands of the sanctuary area shall be maintained as such, which will be helpful for the foraging of the GIB and its associated species.*
- iii. Short height (40 to 60 cm) crops will be encouraged for Bustard friendly habitat surrounding the sanctuary especially in the command area.*

- iv. *A strip of 10 m on either side of the open canal will be maintained to provide grassy patches which forms the insect base to the bustards, to encourage bustard friendly mosaic habitat.*
- v. *Work on canal around core area will not be carried out during June to October to prevent disturbance to the breeding of GIB.*
- vi. *Organic farming be encouraged by project authorities in the command area.*
- vii. *Manual spray of pesticide be encouraged to prevent the spread of pesticides in the surrounding grasslands. Canal water be given to the forest department free of cost for the use of departmental purpose.*

Conditions related to studies proposed by Chief Wild Life Warden, and work among the communities for GIB friendly land use will be organised by the Forest Department under its PA management strategy.

33.4.1.3. Proposal for rationalization of the boundary of Maldhok Bird Sanctuary, Maharashtra.

The member secretary briefed the committee on the proposal. He added that a larger part of area of the sanctuary had little conservation values with most of the area agriculture lands, habitations, roads etc. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed the orders and issued directions to the State Government *inter alia*, for rationalization of the boundaries of the said GIB Sanctuary in response to a writ petition. The expert committee under Chairmanship of Shri. V.B.Sawarkar, had submitted the report to Chief Wildlife Warden.

After discussions, Hon'ble Chairman directed to the State to review the rationalisation proposal in consultation with State Government of Maharashtra with a view of the fact that the sanctuary can be managed for the objective of conservation of GIB with participation of people without compromising their livelihood interests by arbitrary restrictions on their rights.

33.4.1.4. Proposal for conservation, preservation & maintenance of Fortification Wall, Fortress structure & pathway etc of Centrally Protected monuments fortress known as Medhaji Ka Mahal at JamwaRamgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

The member secretary briefed the committee on the proposal. He added that the SBWL Rajasthan has recommended the proposal. After discussions, the committee recommended the proposal with conditions prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden as below:

1. *There shall be no camping by labour within 500 meters from Wildlife Sanctuary boundary.*
2. *There shall be no blasting within 500 meters from Wildlife Sanctuary boundary.*
3. *The work will be carried out in day time only.*
4. *The project personnel engaged in the project shall observe the provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 & Rules made there under.*

33.4.1.5. Proposal for renewal of Jodhpur-Rajola-Sojat-Rendri-Bhaisana-Kantaliya-Babhan-Bheem Road (SH No.58) km 114/300 to km 119/00 in TodgarhRaoli Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

The member secretary briefed the committee on the proposal and added that renewal (metalling) of existing road does not require additional land. The proposal is sub-judice but Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan, in its interim order, has directed Forest & PWD departments to seek recommendation of Standing Committee of NBWL. He also added that since widening is indicated in the detailed estimate of the proposal, a clarification has been sought from Chief Wildlife Warden of Rajasthan.

After discussions, the committee recommended the proposal of renewal of existing road with the conditions prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden as below:

1. *There shall be no camping by labour within 500 meters from Wildlife Sanctuary boundary.*
2. *There shall be no blasting within 500 meters from Wildlife Sanctuary boundary.*
3. *Speed breakers would be constructed at every 500 meters inside the sanctuary area.*
4. *The user agency will provide underpasses at suitable places as decided by the Wild Life Warden for crossing of wild animals in sufficient numbers with atleast 1.5 meter vertical clearance.*
5. *Sign boards holding the title like WILD LIFE AREA STARTS, SILENCE ZONE and NO HONKING ZONE should be installed at strategic points on the road by the User Agency.*
6. *The project personnel engaged in the project shall observe the provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 & Rules made there under.*

33.4.1.6. Proposal of PHED for Chambal Bundi Water Supply Project for extraction of 26 MLD water from river Chambal and construction of an Intake well in place of existing structure, Rajasthan. The project area lies inside the National Chambal Sanctuary.

The member secretary briefed the committee on the proposal. He added that in 2011, a study was carried out by Wildlife Institute of India on the impact of projects on the aquatic wildlife. Based on that study, for sustaining the gharial population in the rive, further drawal of water was not feasible. Standing Committee of NBWL had accepted that study in 2011 and had resolved not to permit any further drawal of water beyond the projects dealt in that study. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan informed that in pursuance of the CEC orders, a monitoring Committee consisting of the representative of Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan and Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department has been set up to monitor and ensure that the prescribed minimum flow of water in the downstream of Chambal River is maintained. He also clarified that the withdrawal of water from the uptake well is within the limit permitted by the Standing Committee and not beyond the permitted quantity.

After discussions, the committee recommended the proposal with conditions prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden as below and strict compliance of Supreme Court/ CEC orders:

- i. *Uptake of 200 MLD would also be subjected to compliance of orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court in I.A.No.1698 of 2006 dated 17.10.2008 in Nadoti Chambal Drinking Water Project*
- ii. *The user agency will provide 2% of the project cost of stretch falling inside the sanctuary area for conservation and development of wildlife habitat. The funds will be placed in a dedicated account for the Sanctuary at direction of Chief Wild Life Warden.*
- iii. *No cutting of trees will be allowed.*
- iv. *No night camping should be allowed by labour force during laying of pipeline in sanctuary area.*
- v. *Work will be done during day time only.*
- vi. *Appropriate protection measures for trees will be provided at user agency's cost.*
- vii. *No disturbance to wildlife and its habitat will be caused.*
- viii. *The project personnel engaged in the project shall observe the provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 & Rules made there under.*

Member Secretary insisted on using the precious water of Chambal for drinking purpose only and not for industrial usage.

33.4.1.7. Proposal for improvement, maintenance and augmentation of Manoharpura-Dausa Section from km 0/0 to 62/300 km of NH-11 A to two lanes with paved shoulders in Jamwaramgarh sanctuary, Rajasthan by National Highway Authority of India.

The member secretary briefed committee on the two laning of Manoharpura and Dausa section in the proposal. Member Secretary NTCA informed that the road is located within the buffer zone of Ranthambhor Tiger Reserve and NTCA had agreed for the proposal with conditions.

After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with the conditions prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden as below:

1. *There shall be no camping by labour within 500 meters from Wildlife Sanctuary boundary.*
2. *There shall be no blasting within 500 meters from Wildlife Sanctuary boundary.*
3. *Provide underpasses at suitable places as decided by the concerned Wild Life Warden for crossing of wild animals in sufficient numbers with vertical clearance as decided by the Wild Life Warden.*
4. *Boards cautioning about start of WILD LIFE AREA, SILENCE ZONE and NO HONKING ZONE should be erected at strategic points on the road by the User Agency.*

5. *The project personnel engaged in the project shall observe the provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 & Rules made there under.*

33.4.1.8. Raising and renewal of existing approach road of 670 meters to Kesarkyari at Amer Palace, Jaipur inside Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

The member secretary stated that the proposal aims at carrying out renewal of existing road by raising the level of road, metalling and protection works on existing road passing through Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary.

After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with conditions prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden as below:

1. *The user agency should taken up action plan for disaster management for fire accidents, solid waste management and sanitary facilities for tourists*
2. *There shall be no camping by labour within 500 meters from Wildlife Sanctuary boundary.*
3. *There shall be no blasting within 500 meters from Wildlife Sanctuary boundary.*
4. *The project personnel engaged in the project shall observe the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 & Rules made there under.*

33.4.1.9. Diversion of 0.8538 ha of forest land from Kitam Bird Sanctuary for construction of 02 lane Melli-Manpur-Namchi Road in South Sikkim under SARDP NE (Phase-A), Sikkim.

The member secretary briefed the committee on the proposal. He stated that the existing road needs up-gradation due to traffic congestion and served as a vital link between South and West districts of Sikkim.

After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with conditions prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden as below:

- *Labour camps will not be permitted to be set up inside or near by sanctuary*
- *Construction materials should be stored in the area identified by the Wild Life Warden.*
- *No felling of trees has been indicated in the proposal. In the foress outside the WLS also, minimum felling of trees or destruction of wildlife habitat, exploitation or removal of any wildlife including forest produce from the sanctuary or forest areas should take place.*
- *Saving most of the enumerated trees as far as possible and felling trees where absolute necessary.*
- *Authorized forest personnel will check the construction sites as and when required*
- *No collection of fuel-wood permitted from the PAs or forest areas*
Project authority should obey the acts, rules and guidelines of the land in letter and spirit.

33.4.1.10. Diversion of 3.330 ha of forestland from Kedarnath Musk Deer Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of road from Talsari Tokh to Gaundar village, Uttarakhand.

The member secretary briefed the committee on the proposal. The location of the road being along the valley and existing trek path, does not traverse in the musk deer habitat. The road facilitates connecting remote villages in the Madhayamaheshwar valley.

After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with conditions prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden as below:

- i. Debris that results from road construction shall be consolidated at suitable location identified by the Wildlife Warden and should not be thrown in the valley*
- ii. Large diameter (40-50 cm dia) Burans and Banj trees shall be retained and the road would be suitably redesigned at the relevant locations.*
- iii. Along the steep slopes retaining structure uphill side will be designed with adequate slopes so that accidental fall of wild animals can be avoided.*
- iv. Scabbards along the road will be designed with approval of Wild Life Warden, should be sufficiently large to allow movement of animals underneath along the streamlets.*

4.2 Proposals within 10 kms from the boundaries of Protected Areas.

33.4.2.1 Upgradation of existing 2 lane to 4 lane with divided carriage way of "Rajauli to Bakhtiyarpur from km.47.677 to km.154.500 section of NH- 31 in the State of Bihar on DBFOT, Jharkhand. (Within 10 kms from Koderma Wildlife Sanctuary)

The member secretary explained the objective of the proposal on up-gradation of the existing "Rajauli to Bakhtiyarpur road (Km.47.677 to Km54.500 section of NH-31) from two lane to four lane passing through the deemed ESZ of Koderma Wildlife Sanctuary. The committee enquired whether the elephants cross the road at any point. The representative of Jharkhand replied that there is no movement of elephants across or near the road.

After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with the conditions prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden as below:

- i. The user agency shall ensure no damage to flora and fauna. Any violation will be dealt with as per law.*
- ii. No night camping will be allowed inside the Sanctuary area in the vicinity of the project area.*
- iii. The user agency would carry out avenue plantation along the both sides and in the middle of NH.*

33.4.2.2. Proposal for construction of proposed residential & commercial project with MMRDA rental housing project at Balkum, Dhokali, Kolshet Thane, Maharashtra by Ishwer Realty and Technologies.

The member secretary stated that the proposal was for constructing a residential and commercial project in the vicinity of Sanjay Gandhi National Park. He added that the location of the proposed project is in the middle of the urbanized landscape of Thane. Earlier the area was used for industrial purpose. The surroundings of site is densely populated.

After discussions the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with the conditions prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden as below:

- i. Natural growing trees which may be earmarked for retention during EIA exercise of wildlife species like Wad (*Ficus benghalensis*), Pair, Mango, Karanj & other fruit bearing trees shall be retained from list of the trees enumerated in EIA report as submitted by project proponent.
- ii. The project proponent will provide funds for protection and conservation of the Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary (which is adjoining to Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali) in accordance with the conservation plan to be approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden. The requirement may be to the tune of Rs.100.00 lakhs.
- iii. Funds will be placed in a dedicated account to be opened with the Wild Life Warden Tungareshwar WLS, and will be utilised in accordance with the management plan prescription,

33.4.2.3 Proposal for installation of Ropeway from Raghunath Temple to Tad Rock Mount Abu of Mars Entertainment Pvt. Ltd in the ESZ of Mt.Abu Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

The member secretary stated that a passenger ropeway is proposed to be installed at Raghunath temple to Tod Rock. The project involves an area of 3300 m² in the vicinity (ESZ) of Mount Abu Sanctuary. The area involved is private land.

After discussions the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with conditions prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden as below:

- i. *No vegetation/tree should be cut or damaged/during the establishment of ropeway by labour.*
- ii. *Ropeway will be operated during day time only (10 am to 6 pm) in summer and (10 am to 5 pm) in winter.*
- iii. *The project personnel engaged in the project shall observe the provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 & Rules made thereunder.*

ANNEXURE-1**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE 33RD MEETING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE OF NBWL HELD ON 14TH MARCH 2015.**

1	Shri Prakash Javadekar Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment & Forests	Chairman
2	Shri Ashok Lavasa, Secretary, Environment, Forests and Climate Change	Invitee
3	Dr S.S. Garbeyal Director General of Forests & Special Secretary	Member
4	Shri Vinod Ranjan Addl. Director General of Forests (WL)	Member- Secretary
5	Dr V.B. Mathur Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.	Member
6	Professor Raman Sukumar.	Member
7	Shri Bharat Pathak, Director, GEER Foundation, Gujarat.	Member
8	Dr H.S. Singh	Member
9	Ms. Monalisa Dash, OSD, Sikkim	Invitee
10	Shri Millo Tasser, DCF, Wildlife, Arunachal Pradesh.	Invitee
11	Shri B.C. Nigam, Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests cum Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand	Invitee
12	Shri B.A. Khan, Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, Bihar.	Invitee
13	S.Md.T.Rahman, Dy. Director, Satkosia Tiger Reserve	Invitee
14	Shri Anup K Nayak, Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Angul, Odisha	Invitee
15	Dr.B.R. Sharma, Addl.Pr.Chief Conservator of Forests(WL), West Bengal	Invitee
16	Shri Digvijay Singh Khati, Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand.	Invitee
17	Shri K.C. Meena, CF Wildlife Panchkula, Haryana	Invitee
18	Shri Pankaz Goel, CF Wildlife, Haryana	Invitee
19	Shri Sarjan Bhagat, Pr.Chief Conservator of Forests(WL), Nagpur, Maharashtra.	Invitee
20	Shri S.N. Singh, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan.	Invitee
21	Shri B.S. Bonal, Member Secretary, NTCA.	Invitee
22	Shri Inder Dhemija, Deputy Inspector General	Invitee
23	Dr. Brij Kishor Gupta, Evaluation & Monitoring Officer, Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi	Invitee
24	Dr S.K. Khanduri, Inspector General of Forests (WL).	Invitee
25	Shri S.P. Vashishth, Deputy Inspector General of Forests(WL)	Invitee
26	Shri Rajasekhar Ratti, Deputy Director (WL).	Invitee
