

**Ministry of Environment and Forests  
Wildlife Division**

**Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 in Paryavaran Bhavan under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment & Forests**

The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) was convened on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009 in Room No.403, Paryavaran Bhavan, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment & Forests. A list of those who attended the meeting is enclosed.

At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman welcomed all the members emphasizing the importance of work being done by the Standing Committee. He advised the members to keep the issues and concerns related to Wildlife Conservation in mind while discussing the developmental projects. He also assured the members to meet more often to discuss various issues related to Wildlife Conservation as well as various projects for clearance. It was followed by discussion on the agenda items as follows:-

**Agenda Item No.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

Member Secretary informed that the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL held on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 were circulated to all the members and no comments so far have been received in this regard. In view of this, the Committee unanimously confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.

**Agenda Item No.2: Action Taken report on the recommendations of the Standing Committee of NBWL meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2009.**

Member Secretary informed that the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee was convened exclusively for the proposals received from Ministry of Home Affairs (ITBP) for clearance of border roads and therefore in the last meeting action taken report on the issues of 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee were not discussed. Therefore, those action points were discussed in this meeting as follows:-

**3.2(8-18) Diversion of 0.6708 ha of forest land from Mt. Abu Wildlife Sanctuary/de-notification of the Sanctuary.**

While briefing the Members, Member Secretary informed that in the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL, a proposal for diversion of 0.6704 ha of forest land from Mt. Abu Wildlife Sanctuary was discussed. In this connection, Chief Wildlife Warden informed the Committee that the State Government had excluded the town of Mt. Abu from Mt. Abu Wildlife Sanctuary through a notification. Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, Member, raised an objection stating that the State Government could not de-notify any area of Mt. Abu Sanctuary without the approval of the Standing Committee. Therefore, a clarification was sought from the CWLW. The CWLW has submitted the necessary clarification which has been circulated to all the members. In the meeting also, CWLW explained that the earlier notification of 1960 of Mt. Abu Sanctuary was not legally valid as it did not describe the boundaries of the reserve areas/of the Sanctuary. Therefore, it was not considered legally valid. In view of above, the State Government had issued a fresh Notification on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2008, detailing the boundary description of the Sanctuary. The revised Notification now covers an area of 326.099 sq. kms of forest against 113.7 sq. km of forests in earlier Notification. He also explained that this action of the State Government was in larger interest of wildlife conservation addressing legal anomaly that arose due to non publication of boundary description. Municipal area of Mt. Abu town was not a part of the Sanctuary as per this Notification. Committee accepted the clarification of the CWLW, Rajasthan.

### **3.2(25) Diversion of 4.17 ha of forest land from Jamwa Ramgarh Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of missing link of National Highway-11 (Dausa – Manoharpur), Rajasthan**

In this connection, a site inspection was made by Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda, Member, and Dr. Anmol Kumar, DIG(WL). The site inspection report had been circulated to all the members. Member Secretary informed that the inspecting team has recommended the proposal subject to three conditions i.e. Compliance of all the conditions envisaged by CWLW in his recommendation; Appropriate action against the erring officials of the PWD who have violated the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court by undertaking construction on Highway without necessary clearances; and, Obtain approvals under the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980, and of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter.

The Committee unanimously approved the recommendations of the inspecting team subject to conditions envisaged by CWLW in his recommendation.

**3.2(25) Delisting of Edible Nest Swiftlets from Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**

Member Secretary informed that this proposal was earlier considered by the Standing Committee in its meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2008 in which the Committee unanimously agreed for delisting of edible nest swiftlets (*Colocalia fusciphaga*) from Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, for a period of three years only with respect of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This approval was subject to putting in place the mechanism by CWLW, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, to ensure that such delisting did not affect the conservation of this species negatively. CWLW, Andaman & Nicobar has communicated a detailed note describing the mechanism to ensure smooth implementation of the decision of delisting the species of Edible Nest Swiftlets found in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. It involves active participation of people, scientists & forest department. On inquiry by Hon'ble Chairman, Dr. Asad Rahmani informed that in conservation of this species, participation of local community was very important and to get meaningful participation of local people, delisting of the species from Schedule-I was necessary to provide them an incentive.

The Committee unanimously agreed to the plan submitted by the CWLW, Andaman & Nicobar islands, in connection with conservation of Edible Nest Swiftlets found in Andaman & Nicobar islands.

**2(6.00) Rationalization of boundaries of Protected Areas- Proposals of Himachal Pradesh.**

Member Secretary informed the members that in the last meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2008, it was decided that a team of the members of the Standing Committee comprising of Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh and Director, Wildlife Institute of India should visit at least six sites in Himachal Pradesh where complete de-notification of Sanctuaries was proposed by the State Government and submit their report to the Committee. Site Inspection report was circulated during the meeting. Mr. Sanjeeva Pandey, CCF (WL), Himachal Pradesh requested Hon'ble Chairman to consider the proposal sympathetically taking into account the feasibility of maintaining the areas as protected area along with the

important ecological features. The Chairman observed that the site inspection report will be examined soon for a decision.

**2{6(ii)}          Diversion of 21 ha of forest land from Desert National Park for construction of road Khabdala to Bachiya.**

Member Secretary informed that inspection report in this regard was yet to be received. However, Dr. Asad Rahmani, Member, informed that he has already submitted the report to the Ministry. Member Secretary informed that the same has not been received in the Ministry. Dr. Rahmani promised to resubmit the report and this issue was deferred for the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

**2{5(2)}          Deletion of Plant Species from the Schedule of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**

Member Secretary appraised the members that as per the recommendation of the second meeting of the NBWL, it was decided to constitute two committees viz; An Animal Committee; and Plants Committee to review the Schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Both the Committees have submitted their reports. The Plants Committee in its report had recommended deletion of at least four plant species from the Schedule of Wildlife (Protection) Act. When this matter was put up before the Standing Committee, it was decided to obtain comments of all the CWLWs also. At present, comments from 15 States/UTs have been received and from others, these were still awaited. Hon'ble Chairman enquired whether the comments of Botanical Survey of India (BSI) were taken or not. It was informed that in the Plants Committee, Director, BSI was Member Secretary.

The Committee unanimously decided to wait for receipt of comments from all the CWLWs before taking a final view in the matter.

**4.11          Permission to carry out study for Environmental Impact Assessment and risk assessment for establishment of Port at Poshitra Distt. Jamnagar.**

Member Secretary informed that this proposal was considered by the Standing Committee in its meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 and it was decided to carry out a site inspection before taking a final view. Site Inspection report prepared by Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh and Dr. Asad Rahmani who carried out the inspection has been circulated. Member Secretary requested Dr. Rahmani to deliberate his views in the matter. Dr. Rahmani informed that

Marine National Park at Jamnagar is one of the most important National Park considering the marine bio-diversity. It has rare species of Corals, Sponges, Sea Anemones, etc. There are about 477 species of Molluscans, out of which about 170 are the new records. Report of endangered Mammals like Dugongs have also been reported. Considering the importance of marine bio-diversity in the area, the inspecting team was of the considered opinion that Poshitra Port and Marine National Park both in the Gulf of Kutch cannot exist together. It was either to be a Marine National Park or the Port. Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Gujarat submitted that the proposal was only for seeking permission to carry out environmental impact assessment which should be considered by the Standing Committee. Unless an EIA is conducted, it was not possible to predict the loss of bio-diversity etc. Hon'ble Chairman observed that Ministry has already decided to carry out a study to know the cumulative impact of all the forthcoming Port projects on the Indian coastline. Till the report is received, it would perhaps be not appropriate to consider this proposal. He also advised the project proponents to come up with some alternate sites as well. Dr. Rahmani informed that in past, NIO has also carried out certain studies concluding not to recommend any port in this area. Chairman advised that both project proponents and members of the Committee who inspected the site should exchange the documents to know each others views in a more holistic manner. CWLW, Gujarat would coordinate this activity. Hon'ble Minister also requested Secretary (E&F) to expedite submission of report on the cumulative impact assessment of forthcoming ports.

## **6.2 Diversion of 3.72 ha of forest land in Wild Ass Sanctuary for installation of windmills by M/s Vestas Wind Technology India (P) Ltd., Gujarat.**

Member Secretary informed that a site inspection in this regard was made by Dr. Asad Rahmani, Member and Dr. Anmol Kumar, DIG(WL). The site inspection report was also circulated. The inspecting team has recommended the proposal subject to compliance of conditions as envisaged by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat in his recommendation i.e. Annual monitoring of the area, Examining impact of windmills and associated activities for birds presence etc.

The Committee unanimously recommended the proposal.

## **6.8 Agenda items by Dr. Asad Rahmani**

Member Secretary briefed that Dr. Rahmani has submitted four agenda items for discussion in the Standing Committee of NBWL as follows :-

- i) Nowapada Swamps, Andhra Pradesh
- ii) Telugu Ganga Canal Vs Lankemalleswara WLS, Andhra Pradesh
- iii) Kolleru Lake, Andhra Pradesh and
- iv) Balpakram Complex in Meghalaya

In the earlier meeting, it was decided to obtain comments of CWLW in this regard. However, no comments from CWLWs, Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya have so far been received. Since the C WLW, Andhra Pradesh was present, he was requested to clarify the issue related to his state. He informed that Nowapada Swamps was not a forest area nor part of a Sanctuary. Therefore, it was not possible to take any action in the matter. Dr. Rahmani informed that Nowapada Swamp was one of the biggest wetland and an important bird area in the country. He informed that presently, M/s East Coast Energy are developing a big Thermal Power Station in the area and causing irreparable damage to the wetlands. Though the area is not part of a Sanctuary or reserve forest, the environmental clearance must have been given to this project with some conditions. Secretary (E&F) also observed that such a big project has to get environmental clearance. Therefore, terms and conditions of environmental clearance and their compliance should be looked into immediately. It was decided to take up the matter with Secretary (Environment), Andhra Pradesh, and also with Chairman, Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, to take appropriate measures in the matter as per rules and regulations in force.

Regarding Telugu Ganga Canal, Member Secretary informed that Lankemalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary was the last abode of the critically endangered bird species i.e. Jerdon's Courser. Chairman observed that it was most important area to be protected. CWLW informed that as per the directions of Central Empowered Committee, certain areas to the extent of 3600 acres was to be acquired by the Collector to hand over to the Forest Department. At the same time, alignment of the Telugu Ganga Canal was to be changed. The alignment of the Canal has already been changed and also 2251 acres of land has already been acquired by the District authorities which are yet to be handed over to the Forest Department. He also informed that District Administration is taking necessary action to acquire the balance land and also to hand over the area to the Forest Department. Chairman directed the CWLW, Andhra Pradesh to submit a report in writing at the earliest.

Regarding Kolleru Lake, Andhra Pradesh, CWLW informed that it was a very sensitive issue and the Hon'ble Supreme Court and Central Empowered Committee have also issued a number of directions in this regard. Further the State Legislature passed Resolution to reduce area of the Kolleru Lake Sanctuary. Because of lucrative commercial fishery being operated in the area, it is very difficult to do anything in the matter. Hon'ble Chairman requested the CWLW to send official report in the matter from the State Government for consideration of the Ministry at the earliest.

Since there was no representative from the State of Meghalaya, it was decided to take up the matter in the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

### **Agenda Item No. 3:**

#### **3.1 Presentation on 'Project Snow Leopard' by Dr. V.B. Mathur, Dean, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.**

Dr. V.B. Mathur, Dean, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, made a detailed presentation on the project Snow Leopard which was launched on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 in the Himalayan States of the country viz; Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Briefing the objectives of the project, Dr. Mathur informed that the basic approach in the project was very unique as it has been planned on landscape level with participation of stakeholders viz; Forest Department, NGOs and local people through Panchayats. Bringing awareness among the mass especially children about conservation of Snow Leopard is one of the important features. Appreciating the project Snow Leopard initiative, Hon'ble Chairman observed that financial allocation for the project was very little. Member Secretary informed that though the approved outlay in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan for Wildlife is Rs.800 crores, the allocation of grants under the Scheme is less than 50% of the approved outlay. Chairman assured that finances would not be a factor for implementation of the Project Snow Leopard.

#### **3.2 Presentation on the revised Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' by Shri Pramod Krishnan, Joint Director (WL), MOEF.**

Joint Director (WL), MoEF, made a brief presentation detailing the salient features of the Scheme. He informed that following new initiatives have been taken in this scheme.

- a) Both Conservation and Community Reserve have been covered for financial assistance.
- b) Financial assistance is also provided for conservation of Wildlife even outside the protected area network.
- c) Separate component for recovery of endangered species have been introduced in the scheme and 15 species have been shortlisted under this component for undertaking recovery plans.

He also informed that total outlay in the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan Scheme was Rs. 800 crores but actual allocation was even less than 50% of the outlay. Hon'ble Chairman observed that considering the scope of the scheme, financial allocation was very little. Therefore, in order to get meaningful outcome, it was necessary that the financial allocation is increased. He also advised to include more species like Jerdon's Courser to be added in the list of species identified for recovery.

#### **Agenda Item No. 4.**

#### **Agenda item proposed by Dr. Bibabh Talukdar, Member, Standing Committee of NBWL.**

Dr. Bibabh Talukdar brought the attention of the Committee on a news item published in 'The Telegraph' in which intentions of the State Government to give Rhino Horns as gift to dignitaries has been published. He informed that gifting of rhino horns was against the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Therefore, the State Government should not be allowed to go ahead with such proposal.

Member Secretary informed that a report in this matter was sought from the State Government which was still awaited. CWLW, Assam could not attend the meeting due to on-going Assembly Session in the State. Further no state can initiate any proposal which is against the existing laws of the country. The provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, have to be complied by the State Government. He also brought to the notice of the members the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court in which the Hon'ble Court directed in Writ Petition 7533 of 1997 not to destroy finished products of ivory. Court also advised that

such finished products could be displayed at appropriate places including Museums etc. Same approach could be taken with regard to Rhino Horns. However, Members observed that large number of Rhino Horns are in possession of Government of Assam and it was perhaps appropriate to destroy them through burning to avoid any misuse to this. Hon'ble Chairman observed that law of land has to be followed and such items could be displayed in Museum and should also be used for scientific studies as and when required. He also informed that Ministry would take a considered decision in this matter.

**Agenda Item No. 5:  
Proposals for diversion of PA's**

**Fresh Proposals**

**5.1 I.A. No. 100 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 337/1995**

Member Secretary informed that I.A. No.100 has been filed in W.P.(C)337 of 1995 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court by the Centre of Bio-diversity, New Delhi seeking implementation of the lion relocation programme from Gujarat to Madhya Pradesh. In this connection, Hon'ble Supreme Court referred the matter to the Standing Committee of NBWL to give its recommendation. The Standing Committee in its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 discussed the matter in detail. Both, CWLW, Gujarat as well as Additional PCCF (WL), M.P. made their submissions before the Committee in detail. It is important to mention here that State of Gujarat has declined to provide Asiatic lion from Gir for relocation to Kunopalpur in M.P. After detailed discussions, the Committee in its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 decided to recommend to the Hon'ble Court the proposed relocation of lions from Gir to Kunopalpur, M.P.

Subsequently, Government of Gujarat has filed an additional Affidavit in response to the recommendation of the Standing Committee of NBWL opposing relocation of lions from Gujarat to Kunopalpur. Hon'ble Supreme Court has again referred the matter to the Standing Committee to reconsider their recommendation in the light of their additional affidavit filed by the Gujarat State.

In this background, Member-Secretary sought the views of the members. Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda opined that relocation of lions from Gujarat to M.P. was necessary for long time survival of the species. He quoted many instances from African countries,

where due to epidemic, a number of species including African lions have been wiped out in different pockets. Therefore, only way to ensure long term survival of Asiatic lions in the country was through relocation in other identified suitable areas. Dr. Rahmani also supported Dr. Chavda and informed that Kunopalpur as well as other areas were earlier habitats of lions in India. Principal Secretary (Forests), Gujarat informed that in 1956 there was an experiment to introduce lions from Gujarat to Chandraprabha Sanctuary in U.P. which was not successful in long term and lions were ultimately killed. He also highlighted the elements of the culture of Gujarat which is having inbuilt grain of conservation, not only to lions but also to all species. Therefore, there was no need for relocation of lions from Gujarat to outside States. CWLW, Gujarat informed that State Government was leaving no stone unturned for conservation of Asiatic lions. Continuous increase in population of lions in the State was the most important evidence to this fact. Considering the need to bring more areas under lion habitat, State Government has initiated 'Greater Gir Project' under which large tracks from adjoining districts have been incorporated in the lion habitat. State Government has been providing full support for the lion conservation. He also informed that lion was a species of dry deciduous forest and its survival in Kunopalpur was doubtful. Opposing this view, Dr. Chavda and Dr. Rahmani informed that lion was found outside dry deciduous forests also in the country in past. Most areas of Central & Western India were the habitat of lion. However, CWLW, Gujarat, observed that natural population dispersal was the best way for conservation of any species. Relocating few individual at a new place would not be successful due to inbreeding as well as other local factors.

After detailed discussions, it was decided to have 'in-house' technical discussion on this subject in the matter before taking a final view. Director, WII, CWLWs of M.P. and Gujarat, Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda, Dr. Asad Rahmani would be participating in this discussion along with ADG(WL).

Observing that Gujarat was the only State in Central Western India not having tiger, Hon'ble Chairman suggested the CWLW of Gujarat to explore the possibility of introduction of tigers in Gujarat and submit a proposal accordingly.

**5.2(1) Diversion of 1016 ha of forestland from Sri Penusila Narasimha Wildlife Sanctuary for Somasila Dam, Andhra Pradesh.**

Member Secretary informed that it was a proposal for diversion of 1016 ha of forest land from Sri Penusila Narasimha Wildlife Sanctuary for Somasila Dam, Andhra Pradesh. It has been proposed to increase the submergence level of the existing dam which would in turn submerge additional area of forest land. Hon'ble Chairman sought clarification from the CWLW whether the provision of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forests Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, have been complied in this area or not. CWLW informed that the provisions of the Act were being made applicable in the State. After discussion, it was decided to carry out site inspection by Dr. Asad Rahmani along with a representative of the Ministry and submit a report in the matter before the next meeting of the Committee to take a final view.

**5.2(2) The Proposal is for diversion of 0.4272 ha of forestland in Gir Wildlife Sanctuary of Gujarat State for drinking water facility to Rasulpura, Gujarat.**

Member Secretary informed that the proposal for diversion of 0.4272 ha of forest land in Gir Wildlife Sanctuary of Gujarat is for laying drinking water facility for the residents of Rasulpura village, Gujarat.

Considering the fact that the proposal was for drinking water supply and involve very small area, Committee unanimously recommended the proposal.

**5.2(3) The Proposal is for diversion of 21.2230 ha of forestland in Thol Wildlife Sanctuary for regularization of oil well by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Gujarat.**

Member Secretary briefed that the proposal is for diversion of 21.2230 ha of forest land in Thol Wildlife Sanctuary for regularization of oil well by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Gujarat. CWLW informed that ONGC started the work in the year much before 1980. Six oil wells were dug before 1980 and 18 oil wells were dug during 1984-88. It was informed that the Sanctuary was declared in 1988. Now the proposal is for formal regularization of the area in favour of ONGC.

Considering that the area was handed over to ONGC before 1980 and also Notification of the Thol Wildlife Sanctuary was issued in 1988, Committee unanimously recommended the proposal subject to compliance of conditions envisaged by the State Government in their recommendation as follows :-

- i) The pipe line may be checked and maintained periodically to avoid any oil leakage and disaster.
- ii) The water samples shall be tested periodically and necessary safeguard measures shall be taken.
- iii) For prevention against any disaster due to fire/leakage of pipeline, the pipeline would be maintained efficiently.
- iv) No other work will be done in the Sanctuary.
- v) Approach road will not be used by any unauthorized person.
- vi) After, every 6 months, inspection for water sample will be done in pipeline area and every month around the oil well.

**5.2(4) Proposal for 2D seismic survey for an area of (158 sq. km), from Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary, Gujarat.**

Since the proposal was for 2D seismic survey for oil exploration, it was decided unanimously to carry out a site inspection before taking a final view. Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda and a representative from WII, Dehradun will carry out the inspection and submit a report to the Committee.

**5.2(5) to 5.2(14) Diversion of Forestland for construction of roads from Jessore Wildlife Sanctuary and Balram Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary.**

While introducing these agenda items, Member Secretary informed that State Government of Gujarat has submitted **nine** proposals for construction of roads to connect different villages which involves diversion of forest land from Jessore WLS and Balram Ambaji WLS. He also informed that in past also, Committee has approved diversion proposals. Therefore, it was very necessary to have holistic picture before taking a final view in the matter. Piecemeal proposals for diversion from the same Sanctuaries could create irreparable loss of the habitat of the WLS

After discussions, it was unanimously decided that State Government should give holistic picture in this matter and site inspection by Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda along with a representative of WII, Dehra Dun should be carried out and a report be submitted to the Committee for consideration.

**5.2(15) Diversion of 204 ha of forestland from Kachchh Desert WLS for construction of road from Bharudia to Aekl Bambhanka by R & B Panchayat, Bhuj, Gujarat.**

While discussing the proposal, it was observed that the proposal was for diversion of 204 ha of forest land from Kachchh Desert WLS. The area proposed for diversion is quite large. Further, it was also informed that there was already an existing road connecting the villages mentioned in the proposal. However, the project proponents from the State mentioned that this proposal would reduce the distance to the Archaeological site of Dholavira by 70 kms from Bhuj and would greatly facilitate visit of tourists.

After discussion, Committee decided that since there is already a road connection, there was no need to create another road for tourists passing through the WLS which would be having a negative impact on the wildlife in the area.

**5.2(16) The proposal is for diversion of 0.6556 ha of forestland Kutchh Desert Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of Repeater Station by 151 Battalion BSF Bhuj, Gujarat.**

Member Secretary informed that the proposal is for diversion of 0.6556 ha of forest land for construction of Repeater Station by 151 Battalion BSF, Bhuj, Gujarat. Since the proposal was for diversion of only 0.6556 ha of forest land and the user agency was BSF, defending our borders, the Committee unanimously recommended the proposal subject to the compliance of the conditions envisaged by State Government in their recommendations as follows :-

- (i) The forest officials will not be stopped from moving in the area for carrying out their duties, all the precautions will be taken so that there is no damage to the wildlife.

- (ii) Periodic inspection will be done within 500 mts. Of the area to see any change in vegetation and if any change is noticed, necessary remedial action will be taken.
- (iii) It shall be ensured that no damage caused to the Wildlife and Sanctuary.
- (iv) Construction materials will be brought from outside the Sanctuary and no digging for extraction of materials will be done in the sanctuary.
- (v) For movement of run off water and wildlife, minimum of one subway per 3 km, 1 culvert per every 8 mts for maintaining continuity of water and speed breakers at suitable distance for safety for Wildlife shall be provided.
- (vi) All the conditions laid by Government of Gujarat, GFD or any other agency shall be binding on the user agency.
- (vii) The Forest officials will not be stopped from moving in the area for carrying out their duties.

**5.2(17) Continuing Mining Operations in Mining Lease No.29/51 situated at Sulcorna Village of Quepem Taluka falling within 600 mts from boundary of Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary, Goa.**

Member Secretary informed that this proposal was for Continuing Mining Operations in Mining Lease No.29/51 situated at Sulcorna Village of Quepem Taluka falling within 600 mts from boundary of Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary, Goa. This was an old lease which had expired on 21.11.2007. The area of the mine was outside the Sanctuary at a distance of 600 mts away from its boundary. The matter had been referred by the Forest Advisory Committee for consideration of the Standing Committee of NBWL. Member Secretary informed that earlier the Committee has considered few cases of mining lease outside Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary of Goa on the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Considering that the project proponents of this proposal were not party to the Petition before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and there was an order of Hon'ble Supreme Court to stop mining activities within one km from the boundary of the protected area, the Committee unanimously decided to reject the proposal.

**5.2(18) Diversion of 4.12 ha of Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra**

Member Secretary informed that the proposal was to carry out survey and investigation for environment impact assessment study in connection with the project of Water Resource Department of Maharashtra State. It was observed that the proposal was not approved by the State Board for Wildlife. The Committee unanimously observed that as per the existing provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, such proposals have to be approved by the State Board for Wildlife before putting up for consideration of the Standing Committee of NBWL. Therefore, it was decided to return the project. It could be re-submitted after approval of the State Board for Wildlife.

**5.2(19) The proposal is for carrying out survey in Kumbalgarh Sanctuary for construction of 400 KV S/C Kankaroli-Jhodhpur Transmission line with DC towers in the Sanctuary portion.**

Member Secretary briefed that the proposal is for construction of 400 KV Transmission line with DC towers in the Sanctuary portion involving an area of 16.155 ha of the Kumbalgarh Sanctuary. The proposal has been recommended by the CWLW. Since the proposal is for erection of transmission line including erecting of towers in the Sanctuary portion involving no felling of trees, Committee recommended the proposal unanimously subject to compliance of conditions envisaged by CWLW in his recommendation as follows :-

- i) The Medicinal plants of moderate heights should be planted underneath and the cost of plantation will be borne by User Agency.
- ii) 5% of the project cost will be deposited for the development of Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary by User Agency.
- iii) Clearance of grasses below the transmission line in the width of 46 mts will be done by user agency in every November to January.
- iv) No night camping should be allowed at the time of erection of transmission line by labour.

**5.2(20) Diversion of 0.3 ha of Forestland from National Chambal Ghariyal Sanctuary Rajasthan, for Dholpur lift irrigation project**

Member Secretary apprised that the proposal was for diversion of 0.3 ha of forest land from National Chambal Ghariyal Sanctuary, Rajasthan for Dholpur Lift Irrigation Project. It involves not only diversion of area but also retrieving of water from Chambal Sanctuary. It was earlier received in the Ministry and was returned with the observation that Irrigation Department should get the study conducted to ensure the availability of water level required for Gharial and other aquatic animal conservation. WII has conducted a study which observed that it was important to identify optimal environment flow that needs to be maintained during critical drought period with the Chambal river. It has also been mentioned that Dolphins prefer 13-14 mts depth of water for their foraging etc. Therefore, it was important to maintain this level of water in the river. Dr. Chavda, Member, observed that National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary is the only landscape level aquatic Sanctuary in the country passing through three States viz. U.P., M.P., and Rajasthan. It is very necessary that a Joint Management Plan involving all the three states should be developed for management of the Sanctuary.

After deliberations, the Committee unanimously decided to defer the matter for the next meeting of the Committee.

**5.2(21) Diversion of 12.88 ha forestland from National Chambal Ghariyal Sanctuary for 400KV S/C line from Dahra to Bhilwara, Rajasthan**

**5.2(22) Diversion of 12.88 ha (11.73 ha of Revenue Land & 1.15 ha forestland) from National Chambal Ghariyal Sanctuary for 400 KV S/C transmission line from Chhabra-TPS to Hindaun, Rajasthan.**

Member Secretary informed that these two proposals were earlier approved by the Standing Committee of NBWL subject to compliance of certain conditions as recommended by the State CWLW. The term of the condition was to deposit 5% of the project cost with the State Forest Department for development of Chambal Sanctuary. Now the project proponents viz; Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd., had requested to modify this condition on pro-rata basis i.e. 5% of the cost of the project falling within the Sanctuary area. Committee observed that even less than 5% of the geographical area is under Protected Area Network of the country. This area is also in great pressure from various developmental needs for different projects. It is very important that the project proponents realise the importance of this area and try to find out alternatives in lieu of using/proposing areas from Sanctuaries and National Parks etc.

Considering these facts, Committee unanimously decided to reject the request of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd in both the cases for modification of the conditions.

**5.2(23) The Proposal is for survey and investigation for construction of National Chambal development Scheme- four Hydropower Projects( Rahu ka Gaon, Gujjapura, Jaitpura & Barsala) on Chambal River. Rajasthan**

Member Secretary informed that this proposal was considered earlier also and the inspecting team consisting of Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh and representative of WII carried out the site inspection. In their report, the inspecting team has observed that if these hydro-power projects are permitted to come, species of Gharial would be lost forever from Chambal because Gharial required running water in the water reservoir. Therefore, it was very necessary for conservation of Gharial habitats that no such projects are permitted to come up in Chambal river. This observation is proved true in case of Kota Barrage in Kota where there are no Gharials. Considering the recommendations of the inspecting team, the proposal was rejected. However, on the request of the then MOS (E&F), the proposal was again listed for consideration of the Committee.

After deliberations, the Committee did not change its earlier view and decided to reject the proposal.

**5.2(24) Reconstruction of Bridge at km 16/10 of Papanasam upper Dam road falling in Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve by High Ways Department, Tamil Nadu**

Member Secretary informed that since this proposal has not been approved by the State Board for Wildlife, it should not be considered by the Standing Committee. The Committee unanimously decided not to consider the proposal until and unless it is approved by the State Board for Wildlife.

**5.2(25) Diversion of 3.9892 ha between 86 & 93 of NH-24 in Ghaziabad district is required to be divert from Protected Forest for road construction**

Member Secretary while briefing the members informed that this proposal had not been approved by the State Board for Wildlife. The Committee, therefore, decided not to approve the proposal unless it is approved by the State Board for Wildlife first.

**Agenda item no.6**

### **Any other item with the permission of the chair**

**6.1. Rationalization of Jaikawadi Bird Sanctuary in Maharashtra:** Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra requested Hon'ble Chairman to consider the proposal of denotification of 125.50 ha of garden area from Jaikawadi Bird Sanctuary in Maharashtra. It was informed that this proposal has earlier been considered and recommended by the Committee on Rationalization of Protected Areas. The total area of the Sanctuary is 34104.85 ha and the area proposed to be deleted is 125.50 ha. The proposal has also been approved by the State Board for Wildlife. The area proposed to be deleted has the *Sant Dyaneshwar Udyan* garden. This area is separated from Jaikawadi Bird Sanctuary. It was also informed that it was not forest area and was on the periphery of the Sanctuary. The garden was also in existence much before the notification of the Sanctuary.

Considering these facts and after detailed deliberations, the Committee unanimously decided to recommend the proposal as proposed by the State Government subject to the compliance of the conditions envisaged by CWLW in his recommendations as follows :-

- i) The authorities developing the garden will set up a state of the art interpretation centre for visitors to the sanctuary as per design, details etc. to be provided by the DCF(WL), Aurangabad.
- ii) The existing tree growth except for exotics like eucalypts, if any, will not be disturbed, so that they may continue to be used for nesting/roosting by birds.
- iii) No pesticides or other harmful chemicals will be used within the garden.
- iv) Use of plastics will be banned within and on the peripheries of the garden.
- v) Any access from the garden area to the waterfront of the lake will be sealed.
- vi) A suitable and adequate area out of that to be deleted should be earmarked in consultation with the DCF(WL) for construction of infrastructure like staff quarters, boat house, interpretation centre, etc. as per management plan of the sanctuary.

### **6.2. AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED BY DR. DIVYABHANUSINH CHAVDA, MEMBER, STANDING COMMITTEE OF NBWL**

Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda has requested to discuss the issue of Simlipal Tiger Reserve in Orissa; Construction of guard chowkies in Ranthombore National Park and Kanha Pench Tiger Landscape. Hon'ble Chairman informed that all issues related to tiger

were being dealt by a separate Committee/NTCA. Ministry was seized of all these issues and taking necessary action. It was also informed that with regard to Nagpur- Seoni Highway passing through Pench Tiger Reserve, the Standing Committee has already rejected the proposal of NHAI and it was also understood that the Central Empowered Committee has also recommended to reject the proposed road alignment of NHAI. The matter related to Simlipal Reserve has been taken up by the State Government for appropriate measures.

Regarding construction of chowkies in Ranthombore Tiger Reserve, CWLW, Rajasthan submitted that their staff posted in the core area require basic infrastructural facilities. Therefore, there was urgent necessity to provide appropriate housing facilities/shelters to the staff in the core area. In past due to lack of these facilities to the frontline staff, the Park has suffered a lot. He also informed that all the construction work was as per the requirement and merging with the surrounding of the area. Dr. Chavda objected to the construction of chowkies in the core area. CWLW also invited Hon'ble Chairman and Hon'ble Member to visit the Park and inspect these chowkies themselves.

### **6.3. CAMPA FUND**

Dr. Talukdar, Member raised the issue of CAMPA money and suggested that some grants from CAMPA funds should be provided for wildlife conservation. Dr. Rahmani told that the money which has been deposited in lieu of diversion of areas from National Parks/Sanctuaries should be provided to NPs/Sanctuaries only. Hon'ble Chairman informed that appropriate action in this regard has also been initiated.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING THE MEETING OF STANDING  
COMMITTEE OF NBWL HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009

1.	Shri Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment & Forests	Chairman
2.	Shri Vijai Sharma, Secretary (E &F), MoEF	Member
3.	Shri P.J. Dilip Kumar, DGF&SS, MoEF	Member
4.	Dr. Asad Rahmani	Member
5.	Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda	Member
6.	Shri Bibhab Kumar Talukdar	Member
7.	Shri P.R. Sinha, Director, WII, Dehradun	Member
8.	Shri M.B. Lal, Addl.DGF(WL), MoEF	Member-Secretary
9.	Shri S.K. Nanda, Principle Secretary (E&F), Gujarat	Invitee
10.	Shri A.K. Joshi, PCCF(WL), Maharashtra	Invitee
11.	Shri Khazan Singh, PCCF(WL), A & N Island	Invitee
12.	Shri Hitesh Malhotra, PCCF(WL)& CWLW, Andhra Pradesh	Invitee
13.	Dr. R.N. Mehrotra, PCCF(WL), Rajasthan	Invitee
14.	Shri. P. Khanna, PCCF(WL), Gujarat	Invitee
15.	Dr. Anmol Kumar, DIG(WL), MoEF	Invitee
16.	Shri Sanjeeva Pandey, CCF, Himachal Pradesh	Invitee
17.	Shri Shashi Kumar, CCF&CWLW, Goa	Invitee
18.	Dr. V.B. Mathur, Dean, WII, Dehradun	Invitee
19.	Shri C.N. Pandey, Director, Gujarat	Invitee
20.	Shri Pramod Krishnan, JD(WL), MoEF	Invitee

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