

**Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee for National Board for  
Wildlife (NBWL) held on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 in the  
Ministry of Environment and Forests**

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The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) was held on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests. The list of participants who attended the meeting is at Annexure-I.

At the outset, Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests welcomed the participants. It was followed by discussion on various agenda items as follows :-

***Agenda Item No.1 : Confirmation of the Minutes of meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2006.***

Member Secretary informed that a dissent note received from Shri S.C. Sharma has been circulated alongwith the minutes. Shri Sharma responded by saying that he had withdrawn his dissent note and it could be taken on record. He also said that law of the land should be followed in all the matters related to wildlife conservation. Shri Malakar, CWLW, Assam suggested small change in the minutes in connection with diversion of Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary discussed in the last meeting which was accepted by the Chairman.

Thereafter, the minutes of the last meeting were taken on record as confirmed.

***Agenda Item No.2 : Action taken report on the recommendations of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife***

**2.4 Guidelines for diversion proposals**

After detailed discussions in the matter, the Standing Committee of NBWL unanimously approved the proforma for submitting application for diversion proposals. It was also decided that guidelines for diversion proposals may be considered by the new Standing Committee of NBWL.

**3.1 Denotification/diversification of forest land comprising a part of Kishtwar High Altitude National Park for non forestry purposes for construction of Pakul Dul Barsar Hydro Electric Project.**

CWLW of J&K made a small presentation and requested the Standing Committee to approve Pakul Dul and Bursar Hydro Electric Project. Dr. Asha Rajvanshi from WII

informed the Committee about various concerns for wildlife conservation in connection with these two H.E. Projects.

After discussions, it was decided that the State Government of J&K should propose appropriate mitigating measures for Pakul Dul H.E. project and approach the Standing Committee again. A detailed study on impact of Bursar Hydro Electric Project on wildlife and required mitigative measures to be carried out by WII, Dehra Dun and the proposal be resubmitted for the consideration of the Standing Committee.

**3.3 Permission to carry out Survey and Investigation work of proposed Daudhan Dam and its submergence area of Ken-Betwa Link Project under Panna Tiger Reserve area of the Forest, Madhya Pradesh.**

Member Secretary informed that the proposal was only for permission to carry out survey and investigation work which has been recommended by the CWLW. Site inspection in this case was not necessary.

After discussion, the Committee recommended the survey and investigation work in the Panna Tiger Reserve, M.P.

**3(10) Diversion of forest land falling in National Ghariyal Sanctuary Area at Kota for laying pipeline from Chambal river to Titanium Dioxide Plant of M/s Agarwal Pigments Pvt. Ltd. near Village Shambhu Pura, Tehsil Ladpura, Kota.**

The project proponents made presentation before the Committee informing that about 650 K.L. of water per day would be taken from Chambal river which is a part of the existing Chambal Ghariyal Sanctuary. It was also observed by the Committee that used waste water would be discharged back into the river.

Considering that the proposal was not site specific, withdrawal of water from Chambal river (Sanctuary) vis a vis scarcity of drinking water in that area; and discharge of waste/used water back in the river which could effect the water quality, the Committee unanimously rejected the proposal.

**Supplementary Agenda Item No.2, Construction of 400 KV transmission lines by Power Grid Corporation of India involving diversion of 93.17 ha of land in Jawahar Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.**

Member Secretary informed that site inspection in this case could not be carried out. Shri S.C. Sharma who was to carry out site inspection alongwith CWLW, Rajasthan informed that the CWLW could not accommodate the dates for the inspection. He also

advised the inspection should be carried out by an independent person and CWLW of the same State should not be a Member of the inspecting team.. It was decided that the Ministry may nominate appropriate officer to carry out the inspection.

***Agenda Item No.3 : Fresh Proposals for diversion/non forestry use/denotification of National park/Sanctuary.***

**1. Ratapani Sanctuary**

Member Secretary informed that the proposal was for laying optical fibre cable on the left side of NH-69 on Bhopal Itarsi way in Ratapani Sanctuary by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited. Chief Wildlife Warden, M.P. had recommended the proposal. In this background, the Standing Committee unanimously recommended the proposal after discussion.

**2. Diversion of area from Sariska National Park/Sanctuary**

Member Secretary informed that five proposals for repair of existing road passing through Sariska National Park/Sanctuary have been received from the State Government. The proposals are as follows :-

- Renewal and construction of road on State Highway No.13 between 191/500 to 194/0 and 203/0 to 203/600 km.
- Renewal and construction of road between 0/0 to 2/400 kms on Alwar – Shahpura road on State Highway No.13
- Renewal and construction of 4/0 km to 10/10 km Pandupul Hanumanji Road in Alwar, Rajasthan
- Renewal and construction of road situated between 270/0 to 292/0 km Dausa – Sariska Road in Alwar, Rajasthan.
- Renewal and construction of road situated between 194/0 km to 197/0 km on Alwar to Shashtra State Highway No.13, Rajasthan

In the proposals, diversion of area has been requested. However, the latest communication from State Government has indicated that it was not diversion but only for permission to carry out repair work on the existing roads. The CWLW has recommended the proposals with certain conditions. The Committee After discussion unanimously recommended the proposals with the following conditions.

- Existing width of road would remain the same and no increase in it would be permitted.

- Speed breakers at appropriate distance as has been suggested by CWLW should be raised.
- The repair of road should be carried out only in day time.
- No labour camps would be permitted in the protected area.

Recommendation of the Standing Committee are subjected to the views/directions of Project Tiger Authority.

### **3. Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary**

Member Secretary informed that the proposal was for digging a canal by the Irrigation Department, U.P. Out of total area of 19.27 ha required from the Sanctuary, only 2.12 ha was forest land. After deliberations, it was decided to carry out site inspection of the area before taking a decision. The Ministry may nominate suitable officers for inspection.

### **4. Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary**

Member Secretary informed that the proposal was for augmenting the drinking water supply in Darjeeling district. The CWLW, West Bengal has recommended the proposal. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), West Bengal briefed the Standing Committee on the project and also informed that no endangered species was in anyway affected by the proposal. After deliberations, the Committee unanimously recommended the proposal.

### **5. Govind Sanctuary**

It was informed that the proposal was for seeking permission for survey for construction of Hydro Electric Power Project Stage III, IV and V in Govind Sanctuary. CWLW has recommended the proposal.

After discussion, the Standing Committee recommended the survey subject to the condition that the project proponent should come up with atleast two alternatives involving area outside Govind Sanctuary in addition to the present proposal for the consideration of the Standing Committee.

### **6. Radhanagari Sanctuary**

Member Secretary informed that this proposal was recommended by the Standing Committee in their fourth meeting after carrying out site inspection. The proposal was recommended with five conditions. Out of which, the State Government was agreeable

to three conditions. But two conditions viz. adding 228 sq. kms forest area in Radhanagari sanctuary and also 150 ha land for declaration as sanctuary were not acceptable to the State Government. Both Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra and project proponents pleaded their case. After detailed deliberations the Committee directed the State Government to propose maximum possible area for inclusion in the existing Protected Area Network before a decision is taken.

### **7. Tale Wildlife Sanctuary**

Member Secretary informed that this proposal was also recommended by the Standing Committee subject to the compliance of 11 conditions.

The State Government and the project proponents have submitted before the Hon'ble Supreme Court that out of 11 conditions, two conditions i.e. declaring the reserved forest land farming part of catchment of Lower Subansiri to be declared as National park (NHPC to provide funding) and no construction of dam upstream the Subansiri river, were not acceptable to State Government and the project proponents i.e. NHPC. Since the project proponents were not present, the Committee decided to defer the matter for the next meeting.

### **8. Askot Musk Deer Wildlife Sanctuary**

This proposal i.e. I.A. No.37 was recommended by the Standing Committee in its meeting held on 6.4.05 with certain conditions. However, Hon'ble Supreme Court in their order dated 18.7.06 has directed the Standing Committee to examine the matter in connection with violations carried out by the project proponents in the instant case and submit their recommendations separately to the Hon'ble Court. The Committee decided to seek detailed information from the State Government followed by site inspection immediately before taking a final view.

### **9. Govind Pashu Vihar (I.A. No.91 in W.P.No.337/1995)**

Member Secretary informed that this proposal for construction of road through Govind Pashu Vihar was earlier rejected by the Standing Committee as the proposed area was richly forested with a wealth of wildlife and an alternate route/alignment could be possible avoiding the sanctuary. However, the project proponent have again approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court and their application was referred to the Standing Committee. After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to abide by their earlier decision i.e. rejection of the proposal.

***Agenda Item No.6 Any other Item with the permission of the Chair.***

With the permission of Chairman, Member Secretary invited CWLW, H.P. to put up his request to consider waiving of the condition of providing 5% of the total project cost to the WL Division by the project proponents in case of Renuka WL Sanctuary. He submitted that the project proponents have already provided 7.5% of the total project cost in one way or the other and this additional 5% would highly increase highly the cost of the project. The Committee decided that the State Government should submit a separate proposal in this regard for consideration of the Committee with all details.

After discussions on Agenda Items, Ms. D. Variava informed the Hon'ble Chairman that the WL Division of the Ministry is badly under staff and needs lot of strengthening. She also emphasized the need of monitoring of implementation of Wildlife Action Plan. Shri S.C. Sharma thanked the Hon'ble Chairman for his patience hearing and coordination during the meeting.

The Hon'ble Chairman appreciated the contribution of all the members and the meeting was ended with a vote of thanks by the Hon'ble MOS.

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**List of members attending the meeting of the Standing Committee for National Board for Wildlife held on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.**

| <b>S.No.</b> | <b>Name of the Members</b>                                               | <b>Designation</b> |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1.           | Thiru A. Raja,<br>Minister of Environment & Forests                      | Chairman           |
| 2.           | Shri Namo Narayana Meena,<br>Minister of State for Environment & Forests | Special Invitee    |
| 3.           | Shri J.C. Kala,<br>Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF | Member             |
| 4.           | Shri. R.P.S. Katwal,<br>Addl. Director General (WL), MoEF                | Member-Secretary   |
| 5.           | Ms. Dilnavaz Variava                                                     | Member             |
| 6.           | Shri Ravi Singh                                                          | Member             |
| 7.           | Shri S.C. Sharma                                                         | Member             |
| 8.           | Dr. R.A. Khan, Zoological Survey of India                                | Member             |
| 9.           | Shri M.C. Malakar, Chief Wildlife Warden,<br>Assam                       | Member             |
| 10.          | Dr. R.B. Lal, IGF (WL) , MoEF                                            | Invitee            |
| 11.          | Dr. Anmol Kumar, DIG (WL), MoEF                                          | Invitee            |