



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

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi 110 003

F.No.6-26/2018 WL

Date: 18.04.2018

To
All Members
Standing Committee of NBWL

Sub: Minutes of 48th Meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL- reg.

Sir/Madam,

Kindly find enclosed copy of the Minutes of 48th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 27th March 2018 at 01.00 PM in Teesta Conference Hall, I Floor, Vayu Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Pasupala Ravi)
Scientist C

E-mail: ddwlmef@gmail.com

Encl: As above

Distribution

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

Copy to

- (1) PS to Hon'ble MoEF&CC
- (2) PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
- (3) PPS to Addl.DGF(WL), Member Secretary, NBWL
- (4) PPS to IGF(WL)/PS to DIG(WL)/PS to JD(WL)

**MINUTES OF 48th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL
BOARD FOR WILDLIFE HELD ON 27th MARCH 2018**

The 48th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife was held on 27th March 2018 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change. List of participants are placed at ANNEXURE- I.

Hon'ble Chairman welcomed all the participants to the 48th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife and asked the IGF(WL) to initiate the discussions on the Agenda Items.

AGENDA ITEM No. 1

Confirmation of the minutes of the 47th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 25th January 2017

The IGF(WL) mentioned that the minutes of the 47th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 25th January 2017 were circulated to all members of the Standing Committee on 7th February 2017. He stated that no comments / suggestions were received and accordingly the Standing Committee confirmed the minutes.

**AGENDA ITEM No. 2
(ACTION TAKEN REPORT)**

46.3.1 Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, Madurai bench dated 22.08.2017 in Writ Petition (MD) No. 7349/2016 and Writ Petition (MD) No. 6174 of 2016 regarding stone quarries operating near Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, Madurai bench and stated that the District Collector, Theni District of Tamil Nadu forwarded the representations of the petitioners to the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife. The Hon'ble High Court directed the Standing Committee to pass suitable orders within a period of four weeks and intimate decision to the petitioners. He mentioned that the proposal involves the extension of mining lease of the petitioners (two associations by name Sangili Karadu Kalludaikkum Mahalir Nala Sangam and K K Patty Kalludaikkum Mahalir Nala Sangam) for stone quarry in 2.50 ha, each in

Kamayagoundapatty village, Uthamapalayam Taluk, Theni District. The mines are located within 5 km from the boundary of Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary and require the recommendation of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife as part of Environmental Clearance.

This issue was considered by the Standing Committee in its 46th meeting held on 8th December 2017. The IGF(WL) also stated that this Ministry's letters vide dated 17.10.2017, 04.01.2018 and 08.02.2018, has requested the State CWLW to furnish his comments. However, so far no response has been received and consequently the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal.

46.3.2 Judgement of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai dated 24-10-2017 in Appeal no. 30 of 2015(SZ) titled Bimal Gogoi & Anr. Vs. Union of India & Ors

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the Order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai bench and stated that the 1750 MW Demwe Lower Project, proposed to be constructed in the Lohit District of Arunachal Pradesh, is being executed jointly by Athena Energy Ventures and the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh. The Environment Clearance to the project was granted by the MoEF&CC in 2010 and the project site is 8.5 km away from the Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary. The Standing Committee of NBWL in its 23rd Meeting held on 14th October 2011 wherein it was decided that a site inspection be carried out by Dr Asad Rahmani, Member NBWL and Shri Pratap Singh, CCF(WL), Arunachal Pradesh. After site inspection, two different reports were submitted to the Standing Committee of NBWL. The matter was thereafter considered by the Standing Committee in its 24th meeting held on 13th December 2011.

The IGF(WL) also stated that in the 46th meeting, it was decided by the Standing Committee that a Committee comprising of Prof R Sukumar, Member NBWL, one representative of WII and one representative of NTCA would visit the site and submit the detailed report to the Ministry within 30 days for further consideration. However, Prof R. Sukumar informed through E-mail about his inability to conduct site inspection and requested to nominate another member for the site inspection.

The Standing Committee in its 47th meeting held on 25th January 2018 decided that the Director, GEER Foundation, Member NBWL, would replace Prof R Sukumar in the aforesaid Committee and requested it to complete site inspection and submit a detailed report to the Ministry within 30 days for further consideration. Committee visited the project site on 25th - 28th February 2018 and furnished the report.

Shri R D Kamboj, Member, NBWL mentioned that a comprehensive peer-reviewed study on hydrology and ecology of three seasons by a reputed and neutral scientific / technical organization(s) before according clearance.

Dr H S Singh, Member, NBWL informed that the impact study of the project has not been carried by the User Agency and the State Government.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided that the WII, Dehradun to carry out hydrology / ecology study and submit the report to the Ministry in three months. Consequently the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal.

47.3.1 Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras dated 27-10-2017 in Writ Petition nos. 26106 to 26108 of 2017 title A. Gopinath vs. Union of India & Ors, Gopinath granite quarry operating near Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras and mentioned that the said Court has directed the Secretary, MoEF&CC to consider the application of the petitioner dated 12.01.2016 for seeking Wildlife Clearance on merits and in accordance with law within a period of eight weeks and intimate decision to the petitioners. He also stated that the granite quarries are located within 10 km deemed ESZ from the boundary of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Hosur Division Krishnagiri District of Tamil Nadu and require the recommendation of the Standing Committee of NBWL as part of Environment Clearance. The online application of the petitioner seeking Wildlife Clearance from the Standing Committee of NBWL dated 12.01.2016 has been pending at the State level.

Further the IGF(WL) stated that this Ministry's letters vide dated 24.11.2017, 18.12.2017, 04.01.2018 and 08.02.2018 requested the State CWLW to furnish his comments in Part IV. However no response has been received from the State Government and consequently the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal.

47.3.3 Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 19-01-2018 in Writ Petition (C) no. 275 of 2015 titled Vidya Athreya & Anr. Vs. Union of India Ors

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the above cited case wherein, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change is made Respondent No. 1 and the National Board for Wildlife is made Respondent No. 2, it has directed this

Ministry and NBWL to look into the suggestions of the petitioners. The petition is highlighting the issue of absence of an effective policy and programme to save critically endangered species like Great Indian Bustards, snow leopards, the Himalayan Brown Bear and Indian wolves, which are on the verge of extinction.

Further the IGF(WL) stated that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has asked the Standing Committee of NBWL to consider the suggestions of the petitioner referred in its order dated 19.01.2018.

The Standing Committee in its 47th meeting held on 25th January 2018 decided that a Committee chaired by the ADGF(WL) and comprising of representative of WII, representative of NTCA, two PCCFs of States where human - wildlife conflict is maximum and IGF(WL) as member secretary would consider the suggestions of the petitioner and submit a report to the Ministry within two months for further consideration. The meeting has been held on 13th March 2018 and the report is awaited. Consequently the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal.

39.4.2.7 Proposal for stone mining lease area 4 ha (private land) in Khasra No. 357 village Ghoora, Tehsil-Rajnagar, Dist. Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh. The mining area is 6.67 km away from Panna Tiger Reserve

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee on the proposal and mentioned that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 39th, 40th and 41st meetings. The APCCF(WL), Madhya Pradesh mentioned that mining area is a private land and does not form part of any corridor.

Further the IGF(WL) stated that the NTCA and the WII have rejected the proposal on the ground that the mining site located within the proposed landscape management plan (also the catchment area of Ken Betua Project) of Panna Tiger Reserve. The Secretary, MoEF&CC received representation on 30.10.2017 to reconsider the proposal from the project proponent.

Dr H S Singh, Member, NBWL mentioned that no mining should be permitted in the additional area to be added to the Panna Tiger Reserve in lieu of the core area to be diverted for Ken-Betwa river linking project.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided that the NTCA and the WII to verify the location and furnish the report to the Ministry within one month for further consideration. Consequently the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal.

35.4.5.1 Proposal for boundary alteration of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh

The IGF(WL) briefed the committee on the proposal and mentioned that the same was discussed in the 35th, 37th, 38th, 39th and 40th meetings of the Standing Committee of NBWL. During 35th meeting held on 18th August 2015 the Standing Committee decided that a Working Group comprising of member Prof R Sukumar, representative of WII, nominee of Wildlife Division of the Ministry and a representative of the State Forest Department of Andhra Pradesh was constituted to visit the area, brainstorm on all aspects of the proposal and suggest viable options, including rationalization of boundaries of the sanctuary, for conservation of the wetland and the sanctuary while ensuring that no hardships are caused to the bona fide owners of the lands in the area. Working Group submitted the report on 2nd January 2017 and same was placed before 40th meeting of the Standing Committee held on 3rd January 2017.

Further the IGF(WL) stated that during 40th meeting of the Standing Committee the Chairman opined to communicate the recommendations of Working Group to the State Government for comments. Accordingly, the recommendations of Working Group were sent to the State Government. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh was requested to present their deliberations to the Standing Committee. In their presentation the following were mentioned.

1. Andhra Pradesh State Assembly resolution

No compromise with the ecological balance by drastic reduction in sanctuary area as per Andhra Pradesh State Assembly Resolution.

2. Deletion of Private Ziroyati Lands

Deletion of private Ziroyati lands from sanctuary that is approximately 5533.3 ha located inside the north-eastern boundary of Kolleru WLS except major rivers / streams flowing within this area retaining 10 m either side of the stream / river by government to ensure the environmental water flow into sanctuary.

The State Government decided that Ziroyathi lands to an extent of 14,861 acres, most of which are falling in North-East corner of the sanctuary limits should be removed. However, instead of a single continuous stretch, the ziroyathi lands falling in two districts of West Godavari and Krishna be consolidated in two patches respectively and then removed as people residing in Krishna and West Godavari district would not like to leave their respective districts.

3. Issue of D-Patta lands

Based on the authentic information on the extent of lands assigned to Scheduled Castes and Backward Class communities, the genuine D-Patta co-operative societies be accommodated adjoining the ziroyati lands to be deleted. Their process of rehabilitation should be ensured that this land does not fall into hands of 'benami' owners.

The State Government agreed that though the D-Pattas issued to the Fishermen Societies and weaker sections were cancelled at the time of notification of the sanctuary, a humanitarian approach was needed to be adapted. Hence it was decided to recommend to the NBWL that as per fresh assessment, approximately an extent of 5000 acres needed to be additionally deleted from the sanctuary to accommodate the livelihood needs of holders of D-Pattas within the sanctuary limits.

Further it was decided that lands for D-Patta holders would be considered in two patches in two districts closer to the proposed Ziroyati lands mentioned above. Hence a total of approximately 20,000 acres of land needed to be excluded from Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary to end the perpetual conflict around and within Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary.

4. Relief and Rehabilitation

The State government should be prepared to invest resources in R&R in order to resolve the rehabilitation cost of remaining ziroyati land owners.

It was decided that R&R package would not be necessary as land to land compensation is proposed for all the Zeroyati and D-Patta land holders within the Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary limits.

5. Survey and Preparation of Integrated Management Plan

The above actions may be started after compilation of reliable data on the actual boundary of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and preparation of integrated management plan.

The survey and fixing would be taken up by Revenue (District Collector), Survey and Settlement, Irrigation and Forest Departments by forming special teams and the work would go simultaneously along with deletion of Zeroyati and D-Patta land from the sanctuary. The management plan prepared by Wetland International South Asia (WISA) for the Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary would be revised or revised with latest requirements.

6. Core and Buffer area

Within the rationalized boundaries of sanctuary, the important areas of bird congregation should be declared as core zones free of human disturbances and the rest buffer areas can be used for traditional fishing without construction of bunds.

After Zeroyati lands and D-Patta lands are consolidated and deleted from the sanctuary limits, the remaining area would be declared as core and buffer areas as recommended in the report of the working group.

7. Ecologically sensitive zone

Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ESZ) should be declared up to present boundary or may be extended to a distance recommended by experts on wetland ecology.

After rationalization of the boundary as proposed in points 1 to 3, Ecologically Sensitive Zone proposal would be submitted to the Government of India to adopt a landscape approach to manage Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary.

8. Constitution of Kolleru Lake Management Authority

The State and Central Governments together set up the Kolleru Lake Management Authority and explore funding mechanisms for sustainable management of the entire wetland to regulate hydrology, industrial effluents, untreated sewage from towns, fertilizers and pesticides.

It was decided to set up a Kolleru Lake Management Authority for sustainable management of this important Ramsar Site.

9. Diversion of Budameru Water to Pattiseema

As entire water of Budameru river has been diverted to Polavaram - Pattiseema canal, the same amount of water flow should be compensated. The Secretary, Water Resource Department and Engineer-in Chief, Water Resource Department informed that the Budameru water was not diverted to Pattiseema. However, for maintaining the long term ecological integrity of Kolleru lake, extra inflows, if required will be given from Polavaram to maintain water balance in the wetland.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the deliberations of the State Government for the boundary alteration of the sanctuary.

46.4.1.21 Construction of third railway track including electrification, signaling and telecommunication between Barkhera km 789.430 to Budni km 770.040 passing through Ratapani WLS in Districts Raisen and Sehore

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal involves the diversion of 268.27 ha (100.54 ha forestland + 4.2 ha non-forestland from Ratapani WLS, and 108.42 ha of forestland + 55.11 ha of revenue land from Sehore Forest Division) for the construction of third railway line including electrification, signaling and telecommunication from Barkhera (789.430 km) to Budni (770.040 km). The State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the condition that the railways will construct underpasses, over passes and chain-linked fences in the portion passing through the sanctuary for safe movement of wildlife and provide automatic hooters on the sanctuary side to prevent their accident death. Suitable warning signs for train drivers will be placed informing them that they are passing through a wildlife area and 20 km speed limit will be followed in the designated sensitive area.

The IGF(WL) also stated that the NTCA has recommended the proposal with the following conditions and mitigation measures:

- [1] Construction of the new railway track should be subject to detailed hydrological, topographical and soil surveys by independent agencies. The project proponent should ensure that no existing drainage is blocked due to the construction.
- [2] The Elephant Task Force Report of Government of India identifies various contributing factors to train hit deaths: ecological (food, water, shelter, vegetation and movement routes), physical (steep embankments and turnings), technical (train speed, frequency and time, unmanaged disposal of edible waste), and lack of awareness among drivers, passengers, and planners (Rangarajan et al. 2010). These factors need to be taken into account while implementing the project.
- [3] Considering the conservation significance of the landscape, sufficient number of under passes (21 places), overpasses (3 places), chain link fencing (9 places), 20 chain link fencing in the cutting area with construction of 1.5 meter wide are proposed as decided in the State Wildlife Board Meeting along the alternate alignment passing through Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, so as to enable animal crossings, minimize animal mortality and allow flow of river water to enter inside the forest. The topographic features, maximum animal movement area(s) and the existing drainages must be of prime consideration for locating the structures on the ground as decided by joint team of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and Madhya Pradesh Forest Department. At least 30% of

the proposed third track alignment in between Budhni and Barkheda should be under mitigation measures so as to enable animal crossings and minimize animal mortality.

- [4] The underpasses should be structured in a manner so that they have heights at least equal to their width, and openings that allow unobstructed view of habitat so as to maximize their use by wildlife. Since Ratapani does not have elephant or gaur, a minimum span of 30 m with a height of 5 m and a width of 5-8 m would work for the railway track passing through the areas outside Ratapani WLS. The 30 m span refers to clear open passageways excluding the support pillars (WII guidelines, 2016). However, for the core area of the sanctuary; the span needs to be least 50 m with the same dimensions of length and width (WII guidelines, 2016).
- [5] Railway is planning to use some of the existing tunnels as overpasses. However, for the new overpasses which need to be constructed, the minimum passage span should be made to exceed 30 m and should not have a steep incline slopes over 25 degrees should be avoided.
- [6] The presence of embankments to make the track level, and even ballast (1 or 2 feet) in flat areas, makes it difficult for large animals such as tigers to get off the track quickly when a train approaches. In order to circumvent this, level-crossing type crosswalk approaches including ramps may be constructed in places (at an interval of every 2 km) where such animals regularly cross railway tracks (WII guidelines, 2016). The identification of locations for these types of crosswalks should be in consultation with the Forest Department. However, these crosswalks should not be considered as an alternative to the proposed overpasses and underpasses and they should be created in addition to the above mentioned mitigation structures.
- [7] To prevent large animals from being trapped in railway tracks between steep embankments, their entry into such areas should be discouraged by installing cattle proof barriers or reinforced fences (rail tracks are most suitable for use as fence posts). This will funnel animal movements through proposed mitigation structures.
- [8] As it is risky for a train to suddenly stop on a curve, the presence of large animals in these terrains can be avoided by installing physical barriers on both sides of the curve.
- [9] Technology aided surveillance systems such as infra-red camera based e-Eye, seismic and wireless sensor based monitoring systems developed by IIT Delhi and WII should be implemented for minimizing animal-rail collisions in the track. The sensors should be placed on both sides of the track in the accident prone areas and should emit warning signals when being approached by large bodied animals. NTCA & Madhya Pradesh Forest Department have already applied e-Eye in Ratapani and the same technology should be extended for this purpose. Incidents

of train-animal collisions in many areas of the country (like Rajaji TR) have already been minimized by using these technologies.

- [10] Steps should be taken for enhancing the visibility for train drivers along sensitive sections by clearing vegetation, leveling mounds (under supervision of Forest Department) and putting solar-light posts at appropriate places.
- [11] A joint team comprising of watchmen of forest and railway departments (equipped with wireless sets) should patrol critical sections of the track (24 X 7 basis) and warn the train drivers whenever necessary.
- [12] A separate team needs to be engaged for disposing food waste and other garbage from the tracks regularly which otherwise might attract animals to approach the track. Care should be taken in planning water point's creations near the track as this might draw more animal movements near the track.
- [13] Both attacking and exit Speed of the passenger and goods trains (especially at night) inside the forested area should be decided after technical deliberations with the Forest Department.
- [14] Standardized signages should be erected at appropriate places along the track sensitizing the drivers and guards. Regular awareness training programs for loco pilots, guards, caterers and other railway officials should be organized in collaboration with the state Forest Department for sensitizing them about the measures need to be taken for averting accidents.
- [15] A joint patrolling team comprising of Railway Protection Force, M.P Forest Department and officials from regional centers of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau should regularly conduct surprise checking in the trains plying in between Bhopal and Itarsi and passing through wildlife areas.
- [16] A recent publication after analyzing 40 years' data on tiger trafficking inferred that rail routes being preferred by more by the poachers than highways ascribing this minimal presence of enforcement agencies in the trains as compared to buses (Sharma et al. 2014). A joint patrolling team comprising of Railway Protection Force, M P Forest Department and officials from regional centers of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau should regularly conduct surprise checking in the trains plying in between Bhopal and Itarsi and passing through wildlife areas.
- [17] Construction work should be done during daytime (6 A.M - 6 P.M) and no night camp of labors and contractor/user agency officials should be allowed within 3 km from the forest area. User agency should also monitor that no labor gets involved in extraction of forest products. Local RFO and forest staff should pay regular and sudden visits to the construction sites for monitoring these.

- [18] The Forest Department and user agency should ensure that the construction period within Ratapani WLS is kept minimal since construction work continued for a longer duration might completely decimate the wildlife populations in the area. Use of pre-fabricated structures is recommended wherever feasibility.
- [19] Light and sound barriers should also be created along the railway as per WII's recommendations (WII Guidelines, 2016).
- [20] The NPV amount deposited by the user agency should be used for mitigating already existing railway tracks (If not done earlier) as per the guidelines prescribed above.
- [21] The State CWLW, Madhya Pradesh should constitute a monitoring committee comprising of forest officials of Ratapani WLS, NTCA, WII, Indian Railway and RVNL representatives to supervise the compliance of the conditions laid in this report during various phases of project implementation.
- [22] A quarterly joint meeting of the officials from rail Vikas Nigam Limited and Forest Department be called regularly to address conflict issues and if anything appears to be urgent in consultation with the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Further the IGF(WL) stated that during 46th meeting of the Standing Committee, it was decided that a Committee comprising of a non-official member of NBWL, one representative of WII and one representative of NTCA would visit the site and submit the detailed report to the Ministry within 30 days for further consideration. The Site Inspection Committee inspected the project site on 8th - 9th February 2018 and furnished the report. The NTCA recommendations as submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change have been accepted by the Site Inspection Committee. The conditions mentioned in the report stand as the conditions along with the following additional conditions recommended by the Site Inspection Committee:

- [1] Narrow passages/bridges/tunnels for draining out the stream water have been provided in the existing rail line. These long narrow tunnels filled with boulders are not adequate for the passage of animals. These tunnels have to be supplemented with new underground passages or overbridge wildlife passages, as prescribed by the NTCA. These passages should have adequate openness to allow animal movements following NTCA guidelines. Additionally, at certain sites near the railway line, high hills with caves, rock crevices and dense evergreen forest provide shelter and breeding ground to wild animals. Additional suitable passages should be provided at such sites (Annexures - 2) to avoid death of wild animals.

- [2] It was noticed that, at many places, the railway track was substantially raised from ground using track ballast (crushed stones between and around rail sleepers) and were flanked by steep uphill or downhill slopes, making it difficult for soft-padded animals like tiger and leopard to quickly cross the railway track, and increasing the chance of collision. At such sites frequently used by animals, where underpasses are not feasible, the stretch of railway track should be flattened to the ground following the 'level-crossing rail design' to enable swift movements of animals.
- [3] In the Central India Tiger-Landscape, network of national and state highways as well as rail lines will be upgraded to high speed roads multiple lanes road and rail in future. In some of the ongoing projects, passages have been proposed, but some of these locations might not match with frequent movement routes of the animals. Expansion and modernization of several existing roads in the region is expected in future. The network of these high speed roads and rails in the tiger landscape are serious threat to wildlife, including tiger. In the background of this fact, a comprehensive study involving tiger experts and field staff may be conducted in the region to identify wild animal's movement tracks so that suitable passages at right sites are provided to minimize damage to the wild animals.
- [4] The project has proposed cutting of about 38,600 trees. These also include cutting of trees for temporary road and dumping sites for the materials. The excavated material can be dumped or re-used without cutting trees. The material can also dumped in depression or water bodies falling between the two rail tracks. The water bodies falling between the two railway track invites wild animals for drinking water. Such water holes may be filled by the dumping materials to avoid death of wild animals by rails. Such water body may be replaced by creating water body in same area at suitable site away from the railway track. Some of the dumping material can also be used in creation of big water bodies. Thus, some trees may be saved when there is scope to save them without impacting the project.
- [5] Daily movement of animal for drinking water is one of the main reasons of the rail and wild animal accident. To avoid or minimize death of the animals, adequate perennial water sources should be created at both sides of the rail lines. But the new water sources should be away (at least half km) from the rail track.
- [6] Huge quantity of stones and stone pebbles will be available in excavation of sites or creating tunnels. For laying railway lines, huge quantity of stones pebbles/chips are required. The transportation of such material will cause disturbance to wildlife. To minimize damage and also to reuse the resources, the stone / stone pebbles may be used in the railway track, if activities related to use of such material are not detrimental to wildlife.

[7] The mitigation measures should also be considered in the existing old rail track wherever possible. The mitigation measures prescribed in the NTCA report should be followed in addition to the recommendations suggested vide point (1) - (6) above.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the CWLW, the NTCA and the Site Inspection Committee. The WII guidelines named “*Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*” will be adopted by the State / User Agency. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

43.1.24 Construction of NH-3 bypass road in Son Chiriya Wildlife Sanctuary, Ghatigaon, Madhya Pradesh

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the Proposal was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 43rd meeting held during 27th June 2017. The user agency has suggested three options of which the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the *Option 1* whereas the National Board for Wildlife has recommended the *Option 3*. It was decided by the Standing Committee in its 43rd meeting that a Committee comprising of one representative of WII and one representative from Wildlife Division would visit the project site and submit a report to the Ministry within a fortnight for further consideration. The Site Inspection was conducted during 30th - 31st August. During the 45th Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL held on 4th September 2107, the Director, WII informed that the Site Inspection Committee noticed discrepancy between the alignments shown in the map of proposal and the alignments shown by the User Agency on the ground during the field visit. The Site Inspection Committee had requested to carry out a joint re-survey by the User Agency and the State Forest Department and furnish information to the Ministry. The Chairman directed WII, Dehradun to carry out the joint survey and submit the report to the Ministry in a fortnight.

The IGF(WL) also stated that the State Government has submitted revised proposal vide dated 19th January 2018 for diversion of 19.074 ha of land (15.516 ha forestland + 3.558 ha of revenue land) for the construction of NH-3 bypass road. The Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the revised proposal without imposing conditions.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW. The WII guidelines named “*Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*” will be

adopted by the State / User Agency. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

36.4.2.12 Construction of Singoli-Bhatwari Hydroelectric Project 99 MW by M/s L&T Uttarakhand Hydropower Limited. The proposed site falls within 10 km from the boundary of Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary

36.4.2.13 Construction of 171 MW Lata Tapovan Hydropower Project of NTPC Ltd, Uttarakhand

36.4.2.14 Construction of 520 MW (4 X 130) Tapovan Vishnugad Hydroelectric Project of NTPC Ltd., Uttarakhand. The proposed site falls outside Nanda Devi National Park at a distance of 7.5 km

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the above proposals and mentioned that the proposals were considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 39th meeting held on 23rd August 2016. During the said meeting, it was decided by the Standing Committee to seek comments of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWRD&GR) on the proposed projects. The IGF(WL) also mentioned that on 23rd September 2016, the matter was taken up with the MoWRD&GR. But, no response was received from them. He also mentioned that in the 42nd meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL, the Chair had suggested the CWLW, Uttarakhand to ask the State Government to take up the matter with the MoWRD&GR. However no response was received from the State CWLW and the MoWRD&GR. He informed that after the 44th Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL, the DIG (WL) had spoken with the concerned Joint Secretary, MoWRD&GR and requested to furnish the comments on the said matter. The comments from the MoWRD&GR have not been received. During 46th meeting held on 8th December 2017 the Chairman of the Standing Committee expressed his concern that no response had come from MoWRD&GR. He also added that in such cases where no response is received, a time limit may be fixed after which the proposal may be sent back to the State Government without further consideration. He asked the Member Secretary to take up the matter with the State Government at the highest level and request it to fix up the accountability for not pursuing the matter further. The Member Secretary took up the matter with the State Government at the highest level however no response was received. Consequently the Standing Committee decided to delist the proposals.

34.4.2.11 Proposal of M/s Stone International Pvt. Ltd Chechat for expansion and renewal of Kotah Stone (Building) production in Mining lease no.22/92 situated in village

Chechat in Tehsil Ramganj Mandi, District Kota which lies at about 6.4 km aerial distance from the Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary/ Mukundra Hills National Park

34.4.2.12 Proposal for renewal of existing lime stone mining lease no.24/87 in village Pipakhedi, Tehsil Ramganj Mandi District Kota near Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan by M/s Zahoor Ahmed, Abdul Majid. The proposed mining lease 8.5 km away from Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary

34.4.2.13 Proposal of M/s Associated Stone Industries (Kota) limited for expansion and renewal of Kotah Stone production in mining lease No. 1/89 situated in Tehsil Ramganj mandi, District Kota, Rajasthan

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposals and mentioned that in the 42nd meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL, the State Chief Wildlife Warden had informed that ESZ proposals of Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary would be finalized and submitted to the Ministry in one month. Revised ESZ proposal of the Mukundra Hills TR was also awaited from the State. Further, in the 43rd meeting of SC-NBWL held on 27th July 2017, the CWLW, Rajasthan sought time of two months to submit the revised ESZ proposals. The period of two months ended on 28th August 2017 but no response was received from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan. The ESZ proposals have not yet been received from the State Government. The Chairman expressed his concern that no response had come from State Government. He also added that in such cases where no response is received, a time limit may be fixed after which the proposal may be sent back to the State Govt. without consideration of the Committee. He asked the Member Secretary to take up the matter with the State Government at the highest level and request it to fix up the accountability for not pursuing the matter further. The Member Secretary took up the matter with the State Government at the highest level however no response was received. Consequently the Standing Committee decided to delist the proposals.

39.4.2.5 Proposal for International Amusement & Infrastructures Ltd for Jaipur Mega Tourism City, a Recreational Project at village Daulatpura Kotra, Tehsil Amer District Jaipur, Rajasthan

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and mentioned that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 39th meeting held on 23rd August 2016. During the meeting, the State Chief Wildlife Warden has mentioned that the Environment Clearance for the project was under consideration of SEIAA, Rajasthan. In the 42nd meeting of SC-NBWL, the State Chief Wildlife Warden had informed that the Environment Clearance (EC) of project shall be submitted in next 2-3 months. Further, in the 43rd meeting of SC-NBWL held on 27th July 2017, the State Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan has sought time of another two months to submit the EC of

project. The period of two months ended on 28th August 2017 but no response was received from the State Chief Wildlife Warden. During the 45th meeting of SC-NBWL, the State Chief Wildlife Warden again requested the time period of another two months for submission of EC of the project. The EC has not yet been received from the State Government. The Chairman expressed his concern that no response had come from State Government. He also added that in such cases where no response is received, a time limit may be fixed after which the proposal may be sent back to the State Government without consideration of the Committee. He asked the Member Secretary to take up the matter with the State Government at the highest level and request it to fix up the accountability for not pursuing the matter further. The Member Secretary took up the matter with the State Government at the highest level however no response was received. Consequently the Standing Committee decided to delist the proposal.

AGENDA ITEM No. 3

48.3.1 Request for consideration of recognizing Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) as the Nodal Agency for Bird Ringing and as Training Partner of MoEF&CC for the Bird Ringing

Dr Deepak Apte, Director, BNHS made a detailed presentation before the Committee regarding bird ringing activities undertaken by BNHS in the past decades. It was informed by Dr. Apte that the BNHS has been undertaking bird migration studies in India since 1927, through bird ringing / banding of more than 700,000 birds, comprising both water birds and terrestrial birds. He also mentioned that since the last 10 years, BNHS has a permanent bird ringing and migration study centre at Point Calimere where both land birds and water birds are ringed / banded on a daily basis. He also cited examples of tracking of ringed migratory birds. Considering the expertise of BNHS, he requested the Ministry for considering recognizing BNHS as the nodal agency for bird ringing and satellite tracking for India and also as training partner of the Ministry.

The Standing Committee after deliberations decided to seek more inputs from States and Institutes before taking a final decision on the matter.

AGENDA ITEM No. 4

48.4.1 FRESH PROPOSALS FALLS WITHIN PROTECTED AREAS

48.4.1.1 Construction of (1) Bridge in Bhalua – Paharpur road, and (2) Mocharakh – Chaurhi road in Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary, Gaya District

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposals involves the diversion of cumulative forestland 1.460 ha (0.50 ha for bridge in Bhalua – Paharpur road, and 0.960 ha forestland for Mocharakh – Chaurhi road) from the Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary for converting *kachcha* road into *pakka* road. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposals with the following conditions:

- [1] The permission for construction of the road shall not entail development of arterial or link road for the development of road connectivity in the concerned larger region.
- [2] During the construction works of the road the practicable restrictions and precautions as specified by the chief Wildlife warden, Bihar shall be compiled with under the control of Divisional Forest Officer Cum Wildlife Warden, Gaya.
- [3] After construction of the road, speed restrictions and appropriate regulations for timing, etc., for vehicular traffic as deemed necessary, may be imposed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar and Divisional Forest Officer Cum Wildlife Warden, Gaya.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW. The WII guidelines named “*Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*” will be adopted by the State / User Agency. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.1.2 Proposal for diversion of forestland for the construction of road from Sansoo to Chopra Shop, Vikram bridge

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the diversion of 0.400 ha forestland from the Sansoo Rakh Conservation Reserve for the construction of road from Sansoo to Chopra Shop. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal.

After discussions the Standing Committee felt that the proposal has got no merits to be considered under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and decided that the proposal be send back to State Government.

48.4.1.3 Diversion of 2.00 ha of forestland from Surasinar-Mansar Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of approach road for the already existing Sangar bridge in river Tawi

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the diversion of 2.0 ha forestland from the Surasinar-Mansar Wildlife Sanctuary for the construction of approach road to the already existing Sangar bridge on the river Tawi. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- [1] The User Agency shall pay 5% of the estimated cost of the project to the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife Protection Department for conservation and prevention of wildlife and its habitat.
- [2] The User Agency shall also pay NPV to the Wildlife Protection Department in accordance with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- [3] The User Agency while implementing the road construction project will abide by the orders issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and follow provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act,1978 (Amended up to 2002) strictly.
- [4] The User Agency will follow the eco-friendly engineering practices during the project execution.
- [5] The User Agency will inform about the do's & don'ts to the staff & laborers involved in the project.
- [6] The User Agency will give preference to local people in employment to minimize the impact on wildlife due to influx of outside people.
- [7] The User Agency must arrange robust and quick / complete disposal of debris generated due to the execution of project in an environment friendly manner in consultation with the Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu or his representative.
- [8] In the event of any offence against Jammu & Kashmir (Protection) act 1978 by any person related or engaged by the user Agency shall be liable for penal action during the execution of the project and the User Agency will be held responsible. In case of related offences the State Board for Wildlife and other competent authority will be approached for cancellation of permission.
- [9] The littering of any kind by the User Agency is strictly prohibited and the user Agency must avoid creating such hazard in the protected area including working site. The User Agency will ensure

that all waste materials such as plastic, tar barrels, gunny sacks, bottles, in cans, etc. would be properly disposed off outside the protected area.

- [10] No waste material including muck generated during execution of the project must be disposed off outside the protected area.
- [11] The User Agency will ensure that minimum damage is done to the local flora (grass herbs). Cutting of trees, saplings, shrubs, bushes and removal of fallen timber / wood by workers of project is strictly prohibited and would be offence against the Jammu & Kashmir (Protection) Act, 1978 amended till date. The User Agency would conduct surprise checks, in collaboration with the Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu or his representative to see that no damage is caused to the flora and fauna.
- [12] Only controlled blasting, if necessary permitted in the sanction by the Government should be undertaken and all disturbances should be minimized to the extent possible.
- [13] The User Agency shall be responsible for obtaining requisite clearances under any other law in vogue.
- [14] The department of Wildlife Protection shall be at liberty to impose any other condition that it or its ground staff may find necessary and unavoidable to force on the User Agency.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW. The WII guidelines named “*Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*” will be adopted by the State / User Agency. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.1.4 (1) Bommadu Village Electrification, (2) Adugundi Village Electrification, (3) Manimole Hadi Hamlet Electrification, (4) Nagarhole Hadi Village Electrification, (5) Golur Hadi Hamlet Electrification, (6) Bavalligadde Hadi Hamlet Electrification, (7) Balle Hadi Hamlet Electrification, (8) Gonigadde Village Electrification, (9) Thimmanahosahalli Hadi Hamlet Electrification, (10) Begur Hadi & Gadde Hadi Village Electrification, (11) Udburkere Hadi Hamlet Electrification, (12) Muleyur Hadi Hamlet Electrification, and (13) Anemala Hadi Hamlet Electrification under *Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Scheme, Kodagu District*

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the diversion of cumulative 0.94845 ha forestland from the Nagarhole Tiger Reserve for the electrification of thirteen villages. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposals

with the conditions and mitigation measures if any as suggested by the Conservator of Forests & Director, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Hunsur may be implemented. Further all the statutory requirements to be considered at the time of implementation of work shall be followed as per the conditions laid down by the jurisdiction officers in the interest of protection and conservation of wildlife. After the approval of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife, further action may be taken up as per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 with regard to the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and collection of Net present value (NPV). The NTCA recommended the proposals with the following conditions and mitigation measures:

- [1] The following mitigation measures are suggested for controlling ELP and ANL inside Nagarhole Tiger Reserve:
 - (a) Install lights only where required by selecting locations wisely.
 - (b) Use motion sensors to turn lights on and off as and when required.
 - (c) The lights should be shielded so that light is focused downward where it is required.
 - (d) Regulate the lighting times and use in only when it required.
 - (e) The LED and metal halide light fixtures are known to have blue light in large amount in their spectrum. The project proponents should ensure that the light fixtures used by them will not emit more of blue light.
- [2] Solar electrification work should be carried out between 9 A.M – 5 P.M and under no circumstances labour camping inside the tiger reserve should be allowed. ALL the personnel associated with solar power project should enter project sites with prior permission from Park authorities. Further, the entire work should be supervised by concerned forester/ forest guard on daily basis. At regular intervals, the overall progress of electrification work should be monitored by Director, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve. To prevent should and air pollution, heavy machinery viz. earth movers should not used at the project site. The complete details of solar power project including the number of households connected, lighting facilities installed along with proper GIS mapping of these facilities should be maintained in Field Director's Office.
- [3] The Tiger Reserve Management should prioritize the plan of voluntary village relocation of these tribal haadis so that it results in their greater economic development and their connectivity with the outside word.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW and the NTCA. The

WII guidelines named “*Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*” will be adopted by the State / User Agency. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.1.5 Construction of 4 approach roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Sanjay Tiger reserve in Sidhi

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the diversion of 23.89 ha forestland from the Satpura Tiger Reserve for the up-gradation of (1) Bastua – Badkadol road, (2) Deomath – Kharmar road, (3) Ramgarh – Baheradol road and (4) Juri – Runda – Bhadaura road of length 70.66 km and width 3.0 m. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal without imposing the conditions. The NTCA has recommended the project with the following conditions and mitigation measures:

- [1] Considering the observations and recommendation of the sub-committee on Guidelines for roads in Protected Areas vide MoEFCC Lr. No.6-62/2013 WL dt. 22.12.2014 and public interest, the widening and metaling of all 4-roads should not be carried out in the stretches passing through the core area except for the construction of all drainage structures in cement concrete to the full width including shoulders. Moreover the box/slab culverts and bridges should be constructed for making it motorable during rainy seasons.
- [2] Sensitive patches of the roads should be repaired as gravel surface road under the supervision of concerned tiger reservation management. User Agency will construct proper safety structures along as well as across the road drainage and existing gully plugging / erosion control work which is damaging the road at present. No vehicular movement should be allowed from sunset to sunrise.
- [3] Legal status of road should remain unchanged and no further widening proposal should be permitted in future.
- [4] Check posts need to be constructed at appropriate locations for regular monitoring of vehicles and control of traffic during emergency situations. Construction of drainage structures should be during daytime (7 A.M – 5 P.M) and no right camp of labours and contractor / user agency officials inside the forest should be allowed.
- [5] Use of heavy earth moving vehicles should be made as minimum as possible since they are likely to create substantial noise pollution in the area. Wherever there is a presence of any breeding

tigers (with cubs) in the area, local staff should immediately report this to the user agency so that additional precautions should be adopted during the construction work.

- [6] Construction materials (including top soil) should be procured from outside the forest area. The existing road should be completely destroyed below the drainage structures to make it permeable for wild animals.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW and the NTCA. The WII guidelines named “*Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*” will be adopted by the State / User Agency. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.1.6 Diversion of 1.506 ha forestland in construction of Piperiya – Pachmari to Ghana Road in Satpura Tiger Reserve, Hosanghabad by MPRRDA, PUI Piperiya

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the diversion of 1.506 ha forestland from the Satpura Tiger Reserve for the construction of road from Piperiya – Pachmari to Ghana. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal without imposing the conditions. The NTCA has recommended the project with the following conditions:

- [1] Considering the ecological importance of the current road being in the core area of Satpura Tiger Reserve and low human population dependent on this road; the need for the up gradation of the current road to a metallic structure within the forest land is not justified. The metaling of the road should not be carried out. This becomes even more important in the light of recommendation of the sub – committee of Guidelines for roads in protected areas vide MoEFCC Lr. No.6-62/2013 WL date 22.12.2014, wherein it has been recommended to maintain status quo of roads passing through national park and core critical tiger habitats and no widening or up gradation is to be allowed. However, Box / slab culverts and bridges may be constructed for making it motor able during rainy season.
- [2] User agency will construct proper safety structures, along as well as across the road drainage and existing gully plugging / erosion control work which is damaging the road at present.
- [3] Legal status of road should remain unchanged. Construction of drainage structures should be during daytime (7 A.M – 5 P.M) and no night camp of labours and contractor / user agency officials inside the forest should be allowed.

- [4] Use of heavy earth moving vehicles should be made as minimum as possible since they are likely to create substantial noise pollution in the area. Whenever there is a presence of any breeding tigress (with cubs) in the area, local staff should immediately report this to the user agency so that additional precautions could be adopted during the construction work.
- [5] Construction materials (including top soil) should be procured from outside the forest area.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW and the NTCA. The WII guidelines named “*Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*” will be adopted by the State / User Agency. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.1.7 Permission for fishing in 2212.917 ha in Satpura Tiger Reserve, Hosangabad

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project for fishing lease over an area 2212.917 ha of Tawa Reservoir situated within buffer zone of the Satpura Tiger Reserve. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- [1] No mechanized boat will be used by the fishermen.
- [2] Exotic fish would not be introduced in reservoir so as to preserve the existing natural eco-system.
- [3] The permit holder should be given an option to dispose of the catch either directly or through the applicant federation.
- [4] An area at least equal to the area that is finally excluded from the National Park / Sanctuary should be added to the National Park / Sanctuary.
- [5] This entire stretch of forest requires an intensive and effective protection mechanism measures including upgrading of infrastructure. It is therefore suggested that the National Tiger Conservation Authority immediately initiate a special scheme for this purpose. The additional financial requirement if any which cannot be met from Central Assistance may be met out of the funds available with the Ad-hoc CAMPA.
- [6] Other relevant conditions mentioned in CEC report. It is also recommended that the compartments that fall under the critical tiger habitat should not be de-notified for this fishing purpose. The applicant agency will bear the cost of laying floating buoys in the reservoir. Apart

from this the applicant agency should deposit Rs. 1.20 Crore to the M P Tiger Foundation Society for the regular patrolling and vigil of the proposed area:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Patrolling Vehicle | 1 Nos | 16.00 Lakh |
| Patrolling Boats | 2 Nos | 50.00 Lakh |
| Floating Jetties | 2 Nos | 30.00 Lakh |
| Patrolling camps in buffer area | 2 Nos | 20.00 Lakh |
| Life jackets, GPS and Search Lights | - | 04.00 Lakh |
| Total | | 120.00 Lakh |

Further the IGF(WL) stated that the NTCA has permitted the project for fishing lease in the reservoir situated within buffer zone of the tiger reserve for a maximum period of 7 years subject to strict adherence to the following mitigation measures. This permission shall be revisited after seven years considering the tiger, other co- predators and herbivores presence and utilization of the area and corridors by them.

- [1] Department of Fisheries should identify the beneficiaries in coordination with the Forest Department and proper Identity Card should be issued to them. Emphasis should be given to the local fishermen communities instead of fishermen from other areas.
- [2] Entry and exit points, number of daily fishing permits and the timings for entry and exit by the fishermen should be fixed. No fishing should be allowed at night. A dedicated team of staff from Forest and Fisheries Departments should ensure this by checking the ID cards.
- [3] No mechanized boat should be permitted nor any destructive fishing technique (such as dynamite, chemical, etc.) be permitted. Fishing nets should not be left inside forest so as to avoid entanglement of any wildlife.
- [4] No fishing and / or camping should be allowed in the allowed in the core critical tiger habitats and the islands in the reservoir since these areas are baking, resting, feeding and breeding grounds for many species.
- [5] Department of Fisheries should ensure that no exotic species of fish is introduced in the reservoir.
- [6] Central Empowered Committee had suggested the project proponent to deposit Rs. 1.2 crore to M P Tiger Foundation Society. This money should be utilized in purchase of and maintenance of speed boat and other patrolling equipments/gears for monitoring fishing activities.

- [7] Meanwhile, State Government should actively work towards providing alternate livelihoods to the families dependent on fishing within the next 7 years (i.e. recommended lease extension period). Similar initiatives were adopted for the fishermen of Mahanadi river in Satkosia TR, Odisha. This could be achieved by creating employment with the state government, creating self-help ground encouraging small scale entrepreneurs etc. Eco-development schemes should be adopted to improve lifestyle of these communities. The fishing community should be taken on board by MP Forest Department and forest department should take initiative for imparting quality education to the younger generations of fishing communities so as to create ample employment opportunities in future. This in long run will reduce pressure on fishing and in turn on the Tawa Reservoir that is buffer area of Satpura Tiger Reserve.
- [8] No tourism or other commercial activities (such as creating market place etc.) should be permitted in the name of fishing in the area.
- [9] Whenever there is a presence of any tiger or other carnivore in the area, local staff should immediately report this to the user agency so that additional precautions could be adopted during the fishing activities.
- [10] Special care will be taken for rare aquatic species and birds while fishing. Likewise special care should be taken during breeding and migration season. Tiger Dispersal Corridor areas also need to be excluded from fishing activities.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW and the NTCA. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.1.8 Four laning of KL/TN border to Kanyakumari from KM 43+000 to KM 96+714 Section of NH-47 & Nagercoil to Kavalkinaru from KM 0+000 Section of NH-47B under NHDP Phase-III in the State of Tamil Nadu on EPC Mode

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the diversion of 0.88 ha forestland from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary for the construction of four laning of KL/TN border to Kanyakumari from km 43+000 to km 96+714 Section of NH-47 & Nagercoil to Kavalkinaru from km 0+000 Section of NH-47B. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- [1] The project proponent shall plant 100 saplings (indigenous species) for every miscellaneous species felled in the interest of Environment Protection.
- [2] The project proponent should contribute under corporate social responsibilities (CSR) in the interest of Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary and local livelihood and social development.
- [3] Soil conservation measures to arrest the surface runoff, removal of top soil during raining season the structure like retaining wall on the sides and putting up speed breaks in highly vulnerable stretches passing through Wildlife Sanctuary or even forest areas where instances of wildlife crossing to be insisted.
- [4] Any other condition stipulated by the Conservator of Forests / District Forest Officer shall be followed.
- [5] The project proponent shall submit an undertaking stating that no disturbance will be caused to the wildlife during project implementation.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW. The WII guidelines named “*Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*” will be adopted by the State / User Agency. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.2 PROPOSALS FOR TAKING UP ACTIVITIES WITHIN 10 KM FROM THE BOUNDARIES OF PROTECTED AREAS

48.4.2.1 Proposal for Wildlife Clearance for creation of Infrastructure Facilities for development of Naval Air Station (NAS) by Indian Navy, NAS, Shibpur

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the creation of infrastructure facilities for development of Naval Air Station for Indian Navy over an area 100.0 ha of reserve forestland falling outside of the notional ESZ of Saddle Peak National Park. He added that the State CWLW recommended the proposal with the condition that the project proponent shall provide suitable facilities / space in the premises of Naval Air Station, Shibpur to the officers and staff of Forest Department to check the movement of wildlife articles and forest produce through the Air Station.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.2.2 Proposal for use of 417.35 ha land for mining activity within 10 km ESZ of Gir Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the mining of limestone over an area 417.35 ha (*414.8493 ha of private revenue land and 2.5091 ha of Government wasteland*) at Sugala and Jagatiya villages and are situated at 6.25 km away from the boundary of Gir Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- [1] The User Agency shall not harm or destroy wildlife habitat including fauna and flora of the Kutch Desert Sanctuary.
- [2] The User Agency shall not take up any activity / dumping material / construction / filling up land in any manner which obstruct the natural flow of water.
- [3] The User Agency shall make permanent arrangement so that no polluted water enters Sanctuary or any solid / liquid waste enters the Sanctuary area.
- [4] The User Agency shall have to create 10 m wide green belt around mining area.
- [5] The User Agency shall prepare closure plan and ensure that the mining area is brought back to its original form on completion of mining activity.
- [6] The said area shall be developed and maintained as natural forest area after completion of the project.
- [7] All workers / employees engaged in the project shall have to compulsorily undergo primary exposure of wildlife at User Agency's cost.
- [8] A Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared by the User Agency and shall have to be approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden and same shall be implemented at User Agency's cost.
- [9] PIL No.88 /2017 has been filed before Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat related to ESZ of Gir Protected Area and Hon'ble High Court has issued stay order on final notification of ESZ of Gir Protected Area. The final orders issued by Hon'ble High Court in the matter shall be fully binding to the User Agency.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.2.3 Proposal for use of 28.00 ha of land for mining activity within 10 km ESZ of Kutch Desert Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the mining of china clay over an area 28.0 ha at village Nariyeli falling at 6.8 km away from the boundary of Kutch Desert Sanctuary. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- [1] The User Agency shall not harm or destroy wildlife habitat including fauna and flora of the Kutch Desert Sanctuary.
- [2] The User Agency shall not take up any activity / dumping material / construction / filling up land in any manner which obstruct the natural flow of water.
- [3] The User Agency shall make permanent arrangement so that no polluted water enters Sanctuary or any solid / liquid waste enters the Sanctuary area.
- [4] The User Agency shall have to create 24 m wide green belt around mining area.
- [5] The User Agency shall prepare closure plan and ensure that the mining area is brought back to its original form on completion of mining activity.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.2.4 Proposal for construction of berths for disposal of oil product within ESZ of Marine National Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves construction of berth-C and berth-D of each dimension 150 m X 20 m with an interconnecting trestle and associated facilities for the disposal of oil products over an area 0.30 ha of the notified ESZ of Marine National Sanctuary. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- [1] The User Agency shall not violate any regulatory provisions under Section 9, 17A, 27, 29, 30, 31 and 32 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- [2] The User Agency shall not destroy wildlife habitat including fauna and flora of the Marine National Sanctuary.
- [3] Approval under Forest Conservation Act 1980, if required shall be obtained separately for use of forestland.
- [4] The User Agency shall ensure that oil is not spilled during execution of the work.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.2.5 Diversion of 2.80 ha of forestland for the construction of PMGSY from Rampur to Bhatodi within 10 km periphery of Satpura Tiger Reserve, Hosangabad by MPRDC, Betul

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the use of forestland 2.80 ha for the up-gradation of the existing road of 8.5 m to 9.0 m width and 3.2 km of length falling outside of the notified ESZ of Satpura Tiger Reserve. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the condition that the User Agency shall not violate any regulatory provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and construct underpasses / overpasses at strategic locations in consultation with the approval of the State Forest Department. The NTCA has also recommended the proposal for up-gradation of the existing road subject to the strict adherence to the following mitigation measures:

- [1] Construction work should be done during daytime and no night camp of labors and contractor / officials of User Agency inside the forest should be allowed. The User Agency should also monitor that no labor gets involved in extraction of forest products. Local RFO and forest staff should make regular and sudden visits to the construction sites for monitoring these.
- [2] The materials for road work (including the top soil) should be procured from outside the forest area. The user agency should not use any fire hazardous materials, machinery, polythene bags, etc. during the road work.
- [3] Considering the topography of the area, there is little scope of creating underpasses for animal movements. However, depending upon the drainage structures and evidence of wildlife

crossings, the team has identified following 16 locations where besides imposing speed restrictions, speed breakers should be constructed by the user agency:

| S.No. | Latitude | Longitude | Structure Proposed |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 22.3826 N | 78.1895 E | Slab culvert* |
| 2 | 22.3734 N | 78.1897 E | Speed Breaker |
| 3 | 22.3722 N | 78.1898 E | Speed Breaker |
| 4 | 22.3704 N | 78.1895 E | Speed Breaker |
| 5 | 22.3679 N | 78.1894 E | Speed Breaker |
| 6 | 22.3646 N | 78.1894 E | Speed Breaker |
| 7 | 22.3644 N | 78.1892 E | Speed Breaker |
| 8 | 22.3622 N | 78.1896 E | Speed Breaker |
| 9 | 22.3586 N | 78.1890 E | Speed Breaker |
| 10 | 22.3563 N | 78.1881 E | Speed Breaker |
| 11 | 22.3551 N | 78.1890 E | Speed Breaker |
| 12 | 22.3537 N | 78.1878 E | Speed Breaker |
| 13 | 22.3408 N | 78.1813 E | Speed Breaker |
| 14 | 22.3510 N | 78.1877 E | Speed Breaker |
| 15 | 22.3482 N | 78.1884 E | Speed Breaker |
| 16 | 22.3461 N | 78.1889 E | Speed Breaker |

**Dimensions should be in accordance with WII Guidelines (WII, 2016)*

- [4] The NPV amount deposited by the User Agency should be used by the Forest Department to erect one additional check post preferably where the road enters buffer zone of the Tiger Reserve.
- [5] Vehicular movement at nights and regular plying of heavy commercial vehicles should be regulated by the Forest Department.
- [6] Signage and caution boards should be placed at regular intervals for spreading awareness messages.
- [7] Since the existing road will be upgraded, therefore, no tree needs to be cut for implementing this project. Local forest staff should monitor this.
- [8] The State CWLW should constitute a committee comprising of the representatives from MPFD, MPRRDA, NTCA and local NGOs to supervise the compliance of the conditions laid in this report during various phases of project implementation.

After discussions the Standing Committee felt that the proposal has got no merits to be considered under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and decided that the proposal be send back to State Government.

48.4.2.6 Construction of Sontalai – Bagratawa double broad-gauge railway line situated in 10 km periphery of boundary of Satpura Tiger Reserve, Hosangabad

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the use of forestland 13.32 ha for the construction of Sontalai – Bagratawa double broad-gauge railway line falling outside of the notified ESZ of Satpura Tiger Reserve. He added that the State CWLW Warden has recommended the proposal with the condition that the User Agency shall not violate any regulatory provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and construct underpasses / overpasses, fencing, etc. at strategic locations in consultation with the State Forest Department. The NTCA has recommended the proposal subject to the strict adherence to the following mitigation measures:

- [1] The abrupt change of soil required to establish the railway embankment leads to vegetation loss, compresses the soil, and compromises water drainage leading to erosion. Moreover, railway construction parallel to rivers/streams can result in hydrological disconnections that dry the soil and may have a significant impact on the ecological function of riparian landscapes. Therefore, construction of the new railway track should be subject to detailed hydrological, topographical and soil surveys by independent agencies. The project proponent should ensure that no existing drainage is blocked due to the construction.
- [2] The Elephant Task Force Report to Government of India identifies various contributing factors to train hit deaths: ecological (food, water, shelter, vegetation and movement routes), physical (steep embankments and turnings), and technical (train speed, frequency and time, unmanaged disposal of edible waste), and lack of awareness among drivers passengers, and planners. These factors should be kept in mind during post project implementation.
- [3] Considering the likelihood of animal movement in the area (as evidenced from Figure 2), at least 20% of the proposed railway track alignment passing through forest land should be under mitigation measures (underpasses, fencing, etc.). Topographic features, maximum animal movement and drainage patterns should be the predetermining factors behind placement of these mitigation structures on ground.

- [4] The project proponent has already proposed five RCC box culverts in the entire stretch. The underpasses should be structured in a manner so that have height at least equal to their width, and openings that allow unobstructed view of habitat so as to maximize their use by wildlife. Since the adjoining landscape does not have elephant or gaur, a minimum span of 30 m with a height of 5 m and a width of 5 m to 8 m would suffice for the railway track passing through the area. The 30 m span refers to clear open passageways excluding the support pillars (WII 2016).
- [5] To prevent large animals from being trapped in railway tracks between steep embankments, their entry into such areas should be discouraged by installing cattle proof barriers or reinforced fences (rail tracks are most suitable for use as fence posts) along the stretches of the alignment with maximum animal movements. Exact placement of these fences should be decided in coordination with the local forest officials.
- [6] Steps should be taken for enhancing the visibility for train drivers along sensitive sections by clearing vegetation, leveling mounds (under supervision of Forest Department) and putting solar-light posts at appropriate places.
- [7] A joint team comprising of watchmen of forest and railway departments (equipped with wireless sets) should patrol critical sections of the track (24 X 7 basis) and warn the train drivers whenever necessary. A separate team needs to be engaged for disposing food waste and other garbage from the tracks regularly which otherwise might attract animals to approach the track. Standardized signage should be erected at appropriate places along the track sensitizing the drivers and guards.
- [8] Construction work should be carried out during daytime (6 A.M to 6 P.M) and no night camp of labors and contractor/user agency officials should be allowed within 2 km from the forest area. User agency should also monitor that no labor gets involved in extraction of forest products. Local RFO and forest staff should make regular and sudden visits to the construction sites for monitoring these.
- [9] Light and sound barriers should also be created along the railway as per WII's recommendations (WII 2016).
- [10] The NPV amount deposited by the user agency should be used for mitigating already existing railway track (if not done earlier) passing through the forest land as per the guidelines prescribed above.
- [11] The CWLW, Madhya Pradesh should constitute a monitoring committee comprising for forest officials of Satpura Tiger Reserve, NTCA, Indian Railway and local NGO representatives to supervise the compliance of the conditions laid in this report during various phases of project implementation.

After discussions the Standing Committee felt that the proposal has got no merits to be considered under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and decided that the proposal be send back to State Government.

48.4.2.7 Construction of Majhagaon Irrigation Project falls within 10 km periphery of Panna Tiger Reserve

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the use of an area 426.763 ha (includes 42.831 ha of buffer area) for the construction of Majhagaon Irrigation Project in the notified ESZ of Panna Tiger Reserve. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the condition that the project proponent should ensure no damage to wildlife. The NTCA has recommended the proposal subject to the strict adherence to the following mitigation measures:

- [1] Considering wildlife area from territorial and tiger reserve jurisdiction is proposed for submergence which is direct loss of distribution and dispersal area of wildlife. Reduced flow of the water will have adverse impact on Gharial conservation in Ken Gharial Sanctuary. These call for both mitigation and prevention measures to deal with the loss and potentially emerging threats. The project proponent needs to consider mitigation in the form supporting buffer management and inputs in the territorial division and for this; certain funds (Rs. 10 crore for Panna Tiger Reserve and Rs. 8 crore for Ken Gharial Sanctuary) shall be made to Tiger Reserve Foundation. These funds would be utilized to enhance the protection measures, habitat recovery, man-animal conflict mitigation, Gharial Recovery Program and monitoring in the buffer and territorial area as well as Gharial sanctuary.
- [2] Continued use of compensated land between FRH and LRH for agriculture will create man-animal conflict. In this case, user agency and the concerned forest authorities shall ensure that the compensated land is completely free from encroachment.
- [3] Forest Department shall have right to sue water for conservation purpose, and tourism activity should be controlled and the plan should have prior approval of the reserve management and in accordance with the normative guidelines for tourism issued by National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- [4] 5% of annual profit from irrigation and electricity generation shall be shared with tiger reserve foundation.

- [5] Catchment area treatment plan shall be prepared and executed at the cost of user agency.
- [6] No labour settlements should be allowed in the forest during and post construction. No bio-resources should be used from the neighboring forests.
- [7] Labourers should strictly be prohibited from hunting. The construction company should be held responsible if it labourer and personnel report poaching.
- [8] It should be ensured that there would be minimum flow requirement to sustain Ken Gahrial sanctuary. This needs to be developed in consultation with the concerned institution.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW and the NTCA. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.2.8 Stone mine project in 1.10 ha on private land at Kewadiya Viillage, Indore Tehsil of M/s. Chandra Shekhar Patidar

The IGF(WL) mentioned that the proposal involves the use of private land 1.10 ha for the collection of boulder / gitti situated at 5.776 km away from the boundary of the Ralamandal Wildlife Sanctuary. He also stated that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the condition that the proponent should ensure no damage to wildlife.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.2.9 Stone mine project in 2.00 ha on private land at Umariya Khurd Viillage, Indore Tehsil of M/s. Rajkumar Jat

The IGF(WL) mentioned that the proposal involves use of private land of 2.0 ha for the collection of boulder / gitti situated at 3.07 km away from the boundary of the Ralamandal Wildlife Sanctuary. He also stated that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the condition that the proponent should ensure no damage to wildlife.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.2.10 Proposed residential and commercial project S.No.42 N.S.No.55/1A(P) O.S.No.42 (N.S.No.55/1B(p) at village, Mogharpada, Thane (W), Dist. Thane

The IGF(WL) mentioned that the proposal involves construction of residential and commercial complex on private land 8330.35 sq.mt situated at 2.09 km away from the boundary of the Tungareswar Wildlife Sanctuary. He also stated that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- [1] The project proponent assures and abides to comply the conditions laid down by MoEF&CC for Environmental Clearance.
- [2] Natural growing trees which may be earmarked for retention during EIA exercise of wildlife species like Wad (*Ficus bengalensis*), Pair, Mango, Karanj and other fruit bearing trees shall be retained from the list of tree enumerated in EIA report as submitted by the project proponent.
- [3] The project proponent will provide Rs. 100 lakh to be deposited with the Chief Conservator of Forest & Director, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali for habitat development, protection and conservation of Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali and Tungareswar Wildlife Sanctuary in accordance with the approved Management Plan.

The IGF(WL) also stated that the State Government recommended the project with the condition that the project proponent will deposit 2% of the total project cost with the Sanjay Gandhi National park, Borivali and fulfill the condition laid down as per the recommendations of the Expert Committee and by the Chief Wildlife warden, Maharashtra State.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.2.11 Proposal for wildlife clearance for use of 36.98 ha of proposed ESZ for the expansion by addition of 1 X 135 MW (GCPP & In-lieu of the one of the existing 60 MW unit) and 1 X 135 MW (IPP) imported coal based thermal power plant

The IGF(WL) mentioned that the proposal involves the use of 36.98 ha of notional ESZ area for the expansion of thermal operation by addition of 1 X 135 MW (GCPP & In-lieu of the one of the existing 60 MW unit) and 1 X 135 MW (IPP) imported coal based thermal power plant located at Sithurnatham, Siruzhapettai, Eguvarapalayam villages of Gummidipoondi Taluk, Thirvallur District located at 7.0 km away from the boundary of the Pulicat Bird Sanctuary. He also stated that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- [1] The project proponent should contribute under corporate social responsibilities (CSR) in the interest of Pulicat Bird Sanctuary and local livelihood and social development.
- [2] Any other condition stipulated by the Additional Principal chief Conservator of Forests and Director / Wildlife Warden shall be followed.
- [3] The project proponent shall submit an undertaking stating that no disturbance will be caused to the wildlife during the project implementation.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.4.2.12 Proposal for clearance of 257.1154 ha of area in Manuguru Forest Division and 185.8437 ha of area in Paloncha Forest Division falling in ESZ of Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary out of which 202.5612 ha is forest area and 54.5542 ha is non-forest area in Manuguru Forest Division and 72.8788 ha is forest area and 112.9649 ha is non-forest area in Paloncha Forest Division respectively for Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project

The IGF(WL) mentioned that the proposal involves the use of 257.1154 ha of area in Manuguru Forest Division and 185.8437 ha of area in Paloncha Forest Division falling in ESZ of Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary out of which 202.5612 ha is forest area and 54.5542 ha is non-forest area in Manuguru Forest Division and 72.8788 ha is forest area and 112.9649 ha is non-forest area in Paloncha Forest Division respectively for the construction of the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project. He also stated that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

Paloncha Forest Division

- [1] The User Agency shall provide funds for taking up the following mitigation measures to minimize the impact of the project on the wildlife of the area as under:

| S.No. | Component | Physical | Amount (Rupees in lakh) |
|--------------|--|----------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Construction of 39 underpasses for wild animals to cross with a height of 4 m and width of 6 m by the User Agency at their cost | 12 Nos | To be taken up the User Agency |
| 2 | Development of natural grass land and maintenance for three years including 3 m wide fire line around the grass land @ Rs. 18000 per ha based on 2017-18 FSR | 20 ha | 3.600 |
| 3 | Desilting and deepening of tanks | 12 Nos | 6.000 |
| 4 | Desilting and development of water holes | 30 Nos | 1.821 |
| 5 | Providing base camp for three years | 2 Nos | 42.669 |
| 6 | Providing strike force for three years | 1 No | 38.667 |
| 7 | Provision of saucer pits | 30 Nos | 1.655 |
| 8 | Providing salt licks | - | 1.000 |
| 9 | Public awareness programs | - | 2.961 |
| 10 | Construction of percolation tank | 2Nos | 10.000 |
| 11 | Installing solar energized pumps for filling the percolation tanks | 2 Nos | 10.000 |
| 12 | Vaccines deworming to wild animals | LS | 5.000 |
| Total | | | 123.373 |

- [2] User Agency shall provide water from the pipeline passing through the wildlife area for filling up the percolation tanks and saucer pits at locations indicated by DFO.
- [3] User Agency shall fell only the barest minimum number of trees while executing the work.
- [4] The works shall be carried out manually without disturbing or damaging flora, fauna or habitat of the area.
- [5] Work shall be carried from 6 A.M to 6 P.M only.
- [6] The material for carrying out the proposed works shall be kept outside the Tiger Reserve only. As and when required they should be carried out to the site during execution only.
- [7] No labour camp should be established inside the tiger reserve during the execution of the work.
- [8] The debris from due to the execution of the work shall be taken away from the Tiger Reserve on day-to-day basis.
- [9] The user agency shall construct masonry pillars to demarcate the proposed area at every 25 m interval.

Manuguru Forest Division

- [1] The User Agency shall provide funds for taking up the following mitigation measures to minimize the impact of the project on the wildlife of the area as under:

| S.No. | Component | Physical | Amount (Rupees in lakh) |
|--------------|---|----------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Construction of 39 underpasses for wild animals to cross with a height of 4 m and width of 6m by the User Agency at their cost | 12 Nos | To be taken up the User Agency |
| 2 | Construction of one eco-bridge by the User Agency across the canal at a location indicated by DFO with a width of 20 m and approach width of 30 m on either side with vegetation consisting fo shrubs and grasses. The work is to be executed by the User Agency at heir cost | 1 No | To be taken up the User Agency |
| 3 | Development of natural grass land and maintenance for three years including 3 m wide fire line around the grass land @ Rs. 18000 per ha based on 2017-18 FSR | 10 ha | 1.800 |
| 4 | Desilting and deepening of tanks | 13 Nos | 5.000 |
| 5 | Desilting and development of water holes | 6 Nos | 0.364 |
| 6 | Providing bas e camp for three years | 1Nos | 32.769 |
| 7 | Providing strike force for three years | 1 No | 38.667 |
| 8 | Provision of saucer pits | 100 Nos | 5.490 |
| 9 | Providing salt licks | - | 3.500 |
| 10 | Public awareness programs | - | 6.000 |
| 11 | Construction of percolation tank | 2Nos | 10.000 |
| 12 | Installing solar energized pumps for filling the percolation tanks | 2 Nos | 10.000 |
| 13 | Vaccines de-worming to wild animals | LS | 4.626 |
| Total | | | 118.216 |

- [2] User Agency shall provide water from the pipeline passing through the wildlife area for filling up the percolation tanks and saucer pits at locations indicated by DFO.
- [3] User Agency shall fell only the barest minimum number of tress while executing the work.
- [4] The works shall be carried out manually without disturbing or damaging flora, fauna or habitat of the area.
- [5] Work shall be carried from 6 A.M to 6 P.M only.
- [6] The material for carrying out the proposed works shall be kept outside the Tiger Reserve only. As and when required they should be carried out to the site during execution only.

- [7] No labour camp should be established inside the tiger reserve during the execution of the work.
- [8] The debris form due to the execution of the work shall be taken away from the Tiger Reserve on day-to-day basis.
- [9] The user agency shall construct masonry pillars to demarcate the proposed area at every 25 m interval.

The Member Secretary stated that the project proponent should deposit fund in the Bio-diversity Conservation Society of Telangana (BIOSAT) Account, the Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana for implementation of mitigation measures.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW and the Member Secretary. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

48.5. AGENDA ITEMS PLACED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

48.5.1 Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 05/10/2015 in I.A. no. 3789/2014 in W.P. (C) 202/1995 w.r.t diversion of 35 sq. mts. of forestland from East Island Wildlife Sanctuary for installation of coastal surveillance RADAR, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 28th meeting held on 20th March, 2013 has recommended the proposal of diversion of 35 sq.mt forestland from East Island Wildlife Sanctuary for installation of coastal surveillance RADAR, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 13.11.2000 had directed that "*no de-reservation of forest / Sanctuaries / National Parks shall be effected*". Thereafter, in pursuance of the said order, any proposal for diversion land from Sanctuaries & National Parks is submitted before the Hon'ble Supreme Court for final approval.

The IGF(WL) stated that the State Government had filed an Interim Application no. 3789 of 2014 in W.P.(C) 202/1995, which the Hon'ble Supreme Court disposed off vide order dated 05th October, 2015 and referred the matter again to the Standing Committee of NBWL.

The proposal is returned to the State Government with intimation to the project proponent for going ahead since the proposal was recommended by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 28th meeting held on 20.03. 2013.

48.5.2 Proposal for installation of co-located strong motion sensors, GPS receivers and metrological sensors with real time VSAT connectivity at Wandoor South Andaman by Directorate of Disaster Management

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project is for installing co-located strong motion sensors, GPS receivers and metrological sensors with real time VSAT connectivity over an area of 100.0 sq.km of reserve forestland located at 180 m away from the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park and 870 m away from the Lohabarrack Crocodile Sanctuary. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the condition that the user agency should share the information gathered through this centre with the Department of Environment & Forests. The project proponent should also allow the park official to use the communication system in case of any emergency.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

48.5.3 Construction of Stand along ring road / bypass around Srinagar city under NHDP Phase VII permission for taking up non-forestry activities near Hokersar Wetland Reserve and Mirgund Wetland Reserve

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the construction of stand along ring road / bypass around Srinagar city located at 215 m away from Hokersar Wetland Reserve and 159 m away from Mirgund Wetland Reserve. He added that the State CWLW.

After discussions the Standing Committee felt that the proposal has got no merits to be considered under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and decided that the proposal be send back to State Government.

48.5.4 Diversion of 595.64 ha of forestland in Karwar, Yellapura and Dharwad Division for the construction of New Broad Gauge Railway line of Hubballi - Ankola

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the diversion of cumulative forestland 595.64 ha (42.0 ha from Dharwad Elephant Corridor + 304.06 ha from Yellapura Elephant Corridor + 249.58 ha from Kanwar elephant Corridor) from three elephant corridors for the construction of new broad gauge railway line from Hubballi to Ankola. He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the condition that the mitigation measures suggested by the IISc Bangalore must be strictly implemented. He also stated that it was mentioned in the Part IV of the proposal that the *post facto* approval of the project will be taken in the forthcoming meeting of the SBWL.

Further the IGF(WL) stated that the Site Inspection Committee of NTCA has not recommended the proposal as the proposed railway line from Hubballi to Ankola passes through Uttara Kannada district which has very forest cover and cuts across the Western Ghats, which are a biodiversity hotspot and a world heritage site. It also fragments the old migration path of India elephants. Out of the 6 tiger occupied landscapes of India, currently the Western Ghats landscape possesses best habitat connectivity and contiguity. The Tiger occupancy in the Western Gats landscape is highly dynamic and shows spatial and temporal variation. Moreover, the recent research has highlighted that future of tigers in India depends on conserving the habitat connectivity isolated tiger population of tiger reserves. The proposed railway line will be having significant negative impact on long term conservation of tigers and other mega herbivores in the Western Ghats landscape by fragmenting existing habitat connectivity and contiguity.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided that a committee comprising of one representative of WII, one representative of NTCA and one person from the Wildlife Division would visit the site and submit the report to the Ministry within 30 days for further consideration and this matter will be placed in the next meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL.

48.5.5 Construction of 4-lane Road on NH-12 (New NH-52) from Km 289.500 to 299.000 (Design Chainage from -0.050 to 9.860) (Darah-Jhalawar-Teendhar Section) including 6-lane Elevated Section in Mukandra National Park in the State of Rajasthan under NHDP Phase-III on EPC Mode (Length 9.910 km.)– Package –I

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the diversion of 24.1196 ha forestland from the Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve for the construction of 4-lane Road on NH-12 from Km 289.500 to 299.000 (Chainage from -0.050 to 9.860) (from Darah to Jhalawar to Teendhar Section). He added that the State CWLW has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- [1] 5% of proportionate cost of the project within the boundary of Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve will be deposited by the User Agency in the account of Rajasthan Protected Areas conservation Society (RPACS) for wildlife conservation and mitigation works.
- [2] To resist movement of wild animals towards the railway track in the initial three km 9 Design chainages km 2.800 to 5.800) of tiger reserve, adequate mitigative measures such as wall / chainlink fencing will be constructed by the User Agency to stop accidents.
- [3] Signage's about information for the wild animals in the area control of the traffic volumes, speed, etc. should be erected.
- [4] No work shall be done before sunrise and after sunset in the protected area.
- [5] No material of any kind should be extracted from the protected area.
- [6] There will be no felling of trees and burning of fuel wood inside the sanctuary.
- [7] The waste material generated should be disposed outside the protected area by the User Agency.
- [8] There will be no labour camp inside the sanctuary.
- [9] No blasting will be carried out in the sanctuary area during the work.
- [10] The User Agency and project personnel will comply with the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Further the IGF(WL) stated that the NTCA has recommended the proposal with the following mitigation measures:

- [1] The solid section of the road needs to be fenced on both sides at the cost of user agency so that wild animals can be funneled to move the six underpasses.
- [2] Upon completion of highway expansion, the existing road below the elevated section should either be dismantled or traffic should be completely regulated by erecting check posts at both ends and placing speed breakers at regular intervals. The National Highway authorities along with the tiger reserve staff should keep provisions for monitoring wild animal movement below the elevated section as well as through the underpasses in the solid section following completion of construction.

- [3] The mitigation measures proposed as part of the National Highway expansion appear to be adequate as well as appropriate. However, the underpasses should be structured in a manner such that the openings should allow unobstructed view of habitat so as to maximize their use by wildlife. Since Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve not have elephant or gaur, a minimum span of 50 m with dimensions as mentioned above would work. The 50 m span refers to clear open passageways excluding the support pillars (WII guidelines, 2016). Light and sound barriers and vegetative camouflage should also be created along the road as per WII guidelines, 2016.
- [4] Some trees would have to be cut for widening to the highway. These trees should be identified in construction with the Forest Department before the construction starts and should be properly marked on ground. Attempt should be made that minimal trees are cut for road widening. Local RFO and front line staff should strictly monitor this.
- [5] Construction work should be during daytime (7 A.M to 5 P.M) and no night camp of labors and contractor/user agency officials inside the forest should be allowed. Use of heavy earth moving vehicles should be made as minimum as possible since they are likely to create substantial noise pollution in the area. The Forest Department and user agency should ensure that the construction period within MHTR is kept minimal since construction work continued for a longer duration might completely decimate the wildlife populations in the area beyond recovery.
- [6] Construction materials (including top soil) should be procured from outside the forest area. The existing alignment should be completely destroyed as soon as constructing of the new alignment is over so as to avoid traffic and ensure emergence of vegetation.
- [7] While, in the initial stretch of approximately 3 km the railway line adjoining the highway is a serious barrier for wild animal movement, construction of over passes at appropriate places (of at least 200 meters span each) for wild animal movement in this dip section appear to be a feasible option and needs to be taken up urgently with the concerned railway authorities. It is recommended that the geo-locations of these over passes should be finalized by the railway authorities concerned in consultation with CWLW / FD, MHTR, NTCA & WII representatives ., Also, in the intervening stretch on the side of the railway track adjoining the NH, physical barriers like guard wall should be constructed at the cost of user agency and the other side of railway track facing the hillock should be fenced so that wild animals can be funneled to use the overpasses.
- [8] The CWLW, Rajasthan should constitute a monitoring committee comprising of FD, DFO and other forest officials of MHTR, NTCA, WII and NHAI representatives to supervise the

compliance of the conditions recommended by NTCA during phases of the project implementation.

After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State CWLW and the NTCA. Further the Standing Committee accepted the requisition of the project proponent to fell barest minimum number of trees and controlled blasting during the execution of the project. The WII guidelines named “*Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*” will be adopted by the State / User Agency. The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State CWLW.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| | | |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1 | Shri Harsh Vardhan Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change | Chairman |
| 2 | Shri C K. Mishra, Secretary, MoEF&CC | Member |
| 3 | Shri Siddhanta Das, DGF&SS, MoEF&CC | Member |
| 4 | Shri Manmohan Singh Negi, ADGF(WL), MoEF&CC | Member Secretary |
| 5 | Dr H S Singh, Member, NBWL | Member |
| 6 | Shri R D Kamboj, Member, NBWL | Member |
| 7 | Shri Debabrata Swain, ADGF, Member Secretary, NTCA | Invitee |
| 8 | Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, IGF(WL), MoEF&CC | Invitee |
| 9 | Shri Nishant Verma, DIGF(NTCA) | Invitee |
| 10 | Shri P Mallikarjuna Rao, PCCF & HOFF, Andhra Pradesh | Invitee |
| 11 | Shri Manoj Pant, PCCF & CWLW, Jammu & Kashmir | Invitee |
| 12 | Shri D V S Khati, PCCF&CWLW, Uttarakhand | Invitee |
| 13 | Shri G K Sinha, PCCF & CWLW, Gujarat | Invitee |
| 14 | Shri P K Jha, PCCF & HOFF, Telangana | Invitee |
| 15 | Dr Y V Jhala, Scientist, WII Dehradun | Invitee |
| 16 | Smt R Sobha, APCCF(FCA), Telangana | Invitee |
| 17 | Shri Bharat Jyoti, APCCF & CWLW, Bihar | Invitee |
| 18 | Shri Alok Kumar, APCCF(WL), Madhya Pradesh | Invitee |
| 19 | Shri P S Somasekhar, IGF(NTCA), R O Bangalore | Invitee |
| 20 | Shri S S Bajaj, APCCF(WL), Chhattisgarh | Invitee |
| 21 | Shri G V Reddy, APCCF & CWLW, Rajasthan | Invitee |
| 22 | Shri J L N Murthy, CCF, Andhra Pradesh | Invitee |
| 23 | Shri V Saibaba, DFO, Andhra Pradesh | Invitee |
| 24 | P. Ravi, Scientist (WL), MoEF&CC | Invitee |