

Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(Wildlife Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi-110003

F. No. 6-43/2007 WL-I(30th Meeting)
Dated: 7th November, 2013

All Members,
Standing Committee of NBWL.

Sub: Minutes of the 30th Meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL.

Sir/Madam,

Kindly find enclosed copy of the minutes of 30th Meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL held on 4th September, 2013 in Room No. 403, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi under the chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests.

Yours faithfully,


(Vivek Saxena)
Deputy Inspector General (WL)
Telefax: 011-24361727

Encl: As above

Distribution:

1. Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF.
2. Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
3. Dr. Asad Rahmani, Director, BNHS, Mumbai-23.
4. Shri Kishor Rithe, President, Satpuda Foundation, Amravati-444607.
5. Executive Director, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore - 570 002.
6. Shri Brijendra Singh, 28, Sunder Nagar, New Delhi-110003.
7. Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, 'Krishnasaar', No.5 Tiger Lane, W6 C Lane, Sainik Farms, New Delhi-62.
8. Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda, "Suryodaya", 310 Gom Defence Colony, Vaishali Marg, Jaipur-302021.
9. Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh, 101 Magnolia, Esteem Gardenia, Sahakara Nagar, Bangalore-560092.
10. Ms. Prerna Bindra, Environment Journalist, 2/13, Iris, Jasmine Street, Vatika City, Sector 49, Gurgaon - 122003, Haryana.

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble MOS (I/C) E&F.
2. PPS to DGF&SS/PPS to Addl. DGF(WL)
3. PS to IGF(WL)/PS to DIG(WL)/PS to JD(WL)

**Ministry of Environment and Forests
Wildlife Division**

Minutes of the 30th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 4th September 2013 in Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

The 30th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) was held on 4th September 2013 in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), New Delhi. The meeting was convened under the chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests. The list of participants is at **Annexure-1**.

At the outset, Hon'ble Chairperson while welcoming all participants to the 30th Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL expressed deep appreciation of the contribution of the non-official members in the meetings of the Standing Committee of NBWL and their selfless dedication for the cause of conservation. She added that the present term of NBWL was coming to an end on 5th September 2013 and that the discussions and deliberations made by the present members during the Standing Committee of NBWL meetings had helped the Chair in taking judicious decisions. The Chair named each and every non-official member of the Standing Committee of NBWL and thanked them for helping the committee to function well and in a more meaningful manner. Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh, on behalf of all the non-official members, reciprocated the gratitude towards the Chair and thanked the Chair.

The agenda items were then opened for discussion.

Agenda No. 1:

Confirmation of the minutes of the 29th Meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 6th June 2013.

The Chair mentioned that before the minutes of the 29th Meeting are confirmed, the following decisions are being taken. Henceforth, all the agenda notes, as circulated to the members of Standing Committee of NBWL shall be put on the website of MoEF, atleast 10 days before the meeting, just as is done in the case of EAC and FAC meetings.

The following two items that have appeared in the agenda on ATR would be removed from the ATR as the deliberations and views of members on these items were already recorded during the 29th meeting.

4.2(2) Construction of intake well near left bank of Chambal river at Kota barrage reservoir which falling in National Chambal Ghariyal Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

The chair mentioned that the MoEF had received a letter from the Hon'ble Urban Development Minister of Rajasthan wherein it has been assured that this proposal is purely for drinking water purpose and no fraction of water from reservoir will be diverted for industrial/irrigational activities.

Dr. Asad Rahmani informed that it is important that the water level in the river is maintained and not in the barrage, as assured. Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that Chambal is the only river where the Dolphins, Ghariyals and Turtles survive in viable populations and the stretch near Kota city is badly affected by pollution. Kota city is an industrial hub of the State and there was no guarantee that the water would not be used for industrial and other purposes as well.

Dr M.D. Madhusudan mentioned that the assurance given by the Hon'ble Urban Development Minister cannot be taken on face value. There is an increase in drawl of water from the river and there needs to be a guarantee from the State Government for the safety of future of the ghariyals. He also quoted a study report of scientists regarding the water offtake from the river.

Ms. Prerna Bindra pointed out that the proposal had already been rejected by the SC, NBWL in its meeting of 20th March 2013, and that in the subsequent meeting, all non-official members had, again, unanimously opposed it owing to the fact that the flow of water was already seriously compromised, as also established by the WII report. and any further withdrawal of water would be fatal to the survival of the critically endangered gharials and Gangetic dolphins. She said that any further stress on the habitat may be taken in the full knowledge of its impact on the gharial. She requested that the rejection of the non-official members may please be recorded.

Shri. Kishor Rithe mentioned that the withdrawal of water from the sanctuaries is a serious issue and has been cropping up across the country. The present amendments proposed in Wildlife Protection Act 1972 also has mentioned "*bona fide* use of drinking and household water by local community". He felt that the term "local community" needs to be defined properly. He felt that prior approval of the S C of NBWL for this proposed amendment should have been taken.

The Chair mentioned that all these points would be placed on record and a view would be taken.

4.2 (2) Proposal to setup an 80,000 TPA capacity plant manufacturing Viscose Staple Fibre at Additional Patalganga Plot No.M1 and M2 at village: Sarsai, Dist.: Raigarh, Maharashtra.

Dr. Asad Rahmani had opined that all the three sides of the MIDC area where the project is proposed are surrounded by forests and the Patalganga river flows just 500 meters from the plant and the effluent from the plant goes directly to the river. He also opined that the Karnala Bird Sanctuary is only 1.5 km. from the project site. Further, Ms. Prerna Bindra, Member, Standing Committee of NBWL was of the opinion that the major concern here was of the captive power plant, which should not be allowed. She also expressed her concerns about the polluting effluents from the plant. This matter had also been earlier discussed and had wrongly been placed in the ATR. The Chairman decided to take a view later.

The chair mentioned that with the above points the minutes of 29th Meeting stands confirmed.

Agenda No. 2: Action Taken Report

The Chair then mentioned that the ATR of 28th Meeting and 29th Meeting shall be taken up later. The Chair requested the non-official members to take up conservation issues first.

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that he had the following points be brought to the notice of the chair as well as the committee:

(i) **Amendment to Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:-** He said that in the National Board for Wildlife meeting under Hon'ble Prime Minister, held in 2007 there was a decision that any legal alteration affecting wildlife should be approved by MoEF after the approval of the National Board for Wildlife. The amendments were presented in the last meeting of National Board for Wildlife held in 2012, but were not discussed and there have also been further substantial changes thereafter. He expressed his concerns about the proposed amendments, viz., provision for allowing use of animal traps in, and certain exceptional cases providing hunting rights to tribals of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. He added that there was a special order of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration giving hunting rights to Nicobari tribals and, if this right is conferred on all other tribes of Andaman Islands also, they would hunt down some endemic and critically species like the Nicobar Megapode, even in the Great Nicobar National Park. This needs serious considerations.

Hon'ble Chairperson clarified that the Bill has now been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee and comments/suggestions have been called for.

The chairperson proposed that a sub-group under the chairmanship of Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh comprising of all the non-official members of the present Standing Committee of NBWL, may deliberate in which the IGF(WL) would also be the member secretary. The committee may propose the amendments and the Chair after taking due consideration will take them to the Cabinet as official amendments of the Government, for appropriate decision. It was agreed to complete this tasks within three weeks.

(2) Rules and Procedures of Standing Committee of NBWL:

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that the report of the sub-committee had been submitted for taking a view.

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh requested if a meeting in this regard could be convened urgently and that it should be held jointly with a meeting on critical wildlife habitats, which is also pending for long. The chair agreed.

Ms Prerna Bindra mentioned that the report of the sub-committee for Rules & Procedures had been submitted and circulated in May 2013, giving sufficient time to study the rules, and comments, if any. She said that they were highly relevant and requested that these be accepted and taken on board.

The chair mentioned that though she had indicated that she would study the report and firm up her views on them. She had not had an opportunity to discuss the same with the officers of wildlife wing of MoEF. She assured that she would discuss the matter with the officials of MoEF and take a decision on the matter.

(3) Critical Wildlife Habitats:

Ms.Pruna Bindra, proposed that the matters on Critical Wildlife Habitats may also be discussed. It was agreed to discuss this matter also along with the rules and procedures.

(4) Sub-Committee on guidelines for Roads:

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that the sub-committee have submitted their report on guidelines for roads in protected areas. He requested that the report be discussed by the committee. He added that several State Governments construct roads through pristine Protected Areas in the name of tourism. He said, once these guidelines are approved, the other road proposals that are pending decision of the Standing Committee of NBWL could also be taken up for discussion.

Dr A.J.T. Johnsingh mentioned that any road passing through a Protected Areas should be 2-lane only with sufficient speed breakers, over and underpasses.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh mentioned that there has to be clarity about “all weather roads”. He state that even the Road Congress does not define the term “All Weather Roads” and therefore, it would be better to grant permission for cement roads.

Shri Kishor Rithe mentioned that the site inspection reports of road proposals have considered all facts for undertaking such roads passing through the Protected Areas and the guidelines have great relevance in such situations.

Dr Madhusudan mentioned that both proposals for roads within Protected Areas and within 10 kms of Protected Areas are pending consideration and decision of Standing Committee of NBWL and all of them may have to be deferred in case decision on this guideline is delayed.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam mentioned that a view needs to be taken in case roads which were existent even before the sanctuary was notified and suggested that the guidelines should take this into consideration.

Ms. Pruna Bindra mentioned that while one understood the imperative for roads. it is equally important to consider the sanctity of Protected Areas and natural habitats that support eco-system services-. and also to understand the impact of roads, which go beyond road kills. Roads obstruct wildlife movement, provide increased access, serve as conduits to ancillary development, and fragment already fragmented habitats.

She said that in many cases it has been witnessed that existing roads are not repaired, till they become virtually unusable, in anticipation of expansion or widening of the roads. She said that things have come to a point where we now have to decide whether we will protect

the sanctity of our PAs, or further fragment and deteriorate them by indiscriminately allowing expansion and construction of roads through them.

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that roads are of great importance but we need to strike a balance. Both within Protected Areas and within its immediate vicinity. He quoted the example of the road today passing through the Kaziranga National Park which is responsible for the death of many animals including rhinos, each year. When the Numaligarh Oil refinery, was sanctioned, it was agreed that the road passing through the Park would be closed and an alternate one south of the Mikir Hills, would operate as a national highway. But even today, the road in question has not been closed. There have been many such empty promises.

Dr M.D. Madhusudan pointed out the provisions of the National Wildlife Action Plan where it has been indicated that road planners should first try to avoid planning roads passing through Protected Areas and only in unavoidable circumstances should such roads be planned. The Ministry of surface transport should take adequate care to follow the provisions of the National Wildlife Action Plan.

It was felt that the proposals should not be coming to the Standing Committee of NBWL only at the stage of clearance, when roads had practically been completed on both sides of the PA. Rather the SC, NBWL should have a proactive role with Ministry of surface transport, Ministry of Railways etc so that they are consulted at the planning stages itself, in such a manner that PAs are avoided/bypassed, as envisaged by the National Wildlife Action Plan. The role of the Standing Committee of NBWL is not to be obstructive, but to help in the larger planning process, in such a way that wildlife concerns are factored in.

Dr A.J.T. Johnsingh cited the examples of Mudumalai, Bandipur and Nagarhole where night traffic has been prohibited and it is only 2 lane passing through the Protected Areas.

After discussion, the Committee decided to adopt the guidelines in its present form and requested the Chief Wildlife Wardens to submit their comments, if any, on the guidelines to the Ministry within a month and guidelines could then be amended if considered necessary.

Agenda No.3

Agenda by Dr Asad Rahmani:

i. Unauthorized Zoos:

Dr Rahmani mentioned that large number of unauthorized Zoos were still functioning in the country and some action needs to be taken by the Ministry in this connection..

Ms. Prerna Bindra mentioned that there were large numbers of unauthorised Zoos, where animals were kept in deplorable condition, and she desired to have a thorough inventory of these-and also to fix accountability for violations. She said that unauthorised zoos must be shut down in a specified time period., and if not then the administrative authority must also be held accountable. She said that strict action be taken so that a tough message must go that illegal zoos, which have no place in civil society.

The Member Secretary, CZA mentioned that as per Hon'ble Supreme Court decision in PETA cases, about 31 zoos having animals have been found violating the Zoo Rules. Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed for preparation of guidelines for translocation of animals from such un-recognized zoos.

Shri Kishor Rithe mentioned that CZA is simply issuing notices to unauthorized Zoos. Large number of injured animals are coming to the state Forest departments and they are sending these animals again to these unauthorized zoos. Hence CZA should select few better equipped (with sufficient land and infrastructure) unauthorized zoos in every state and work with them proactively by providing them expertise and funds, so that they can come under the category of recognized zoos. All the non official members of SC-NBWL agreed to this suggestion.

The chairperson mentioned that shortage of fund in MoEF has been a matter of great concern. The chairperson requested the Central Zoo Authority to send the guidelines within two months and it would then be sent to the State Governments.

ii. Elephants mortality –

The chairperson informed that the Ministry had taken all possible steps including prosecuting the drivers who were responsible for death of elephants due to train hits.

Dr M.D. Madhusudan mentioned that the Railway Board has given funds for preparation of signages and for installing more efficient signal systems and for installation of sensors for presence of animals on railway.

The Member Secretary, Standing Committee of NBWL, informed that this project of e-sensors for detecting the presence of elephants was being taken up by IIT Delhi as a pilot study in Rajaji National Park and if found successful, they could be replicated in other parts of the country also.

Dr. A.J.T Johnsingh desired to know if the railway track between Motichur and Motichur Rao in Rajaji National Park could be fenced on the forest side preventing elephants coming to the railway track. There is no forest on the other side of the railway track. He also desired whether the Railway line passing through the forests in the Palakkad Division of Kerala where elephants get killed by train, be shifted.

iii. Shark fin:

Ms. Perna Bindra deeply appreciated the move of the Hon'ble Chair, and MoEF for its recent 'Fins attached policy' for sharks, which she said was timely. It is a significant step in conserving sharks which are now gravely threatened. She, however, also said there were some issues that needed to be addressed for its effective implementation. There was an urgent need to relook at the classification of shark species under the schedules of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, as currently only very few species were listed. She desired to know as to whether there could be possibility of having consultation with the officials of implementing Ministries so as to work out strategies for implementation of the ban.

The chairperson informed that the Addl.DGF(WL) will invite comments and suggestions from all the members.

Agenda by Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda:

Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda desired to know the status of the protection of endangered species and the action taken in each case for their protection and enhancement. He pointed out that this matter was discussed at NBWL meeting held in 2010. At the COP11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Hyderabad in 2012 the Hon'ble Prime Minister himself had said that the programme would be taken up actively. Subsequently, Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda had taken up the same issue at the SC's meetings held in March and July this year.

In spite of all this and though nearly 2 years have passed no action was in evidence. He, therefore, suggested that a nodal person in the Ministry should be given the responsibility to follow up the matter with the concerned state governments to ensure that the programme gets off the ground in each case and the species concerned come on the path of recovery and report back to the Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife.

Dr Rahmani mentioned that the guidelines for Bustard conservation have been printed by Wildlife Institute of India and State Governments have to propose Action Plans in line with these guidelines. He said there were only three Bustards left in Nanaj where there were 30 birds earlier. The Member Secretary informed that the Action Plan for conservation breeding is being prepared in accordance with the guidelines and there will be wide consultation in the month of November-December to finalize this.

Kishor Rithe mentioned that there are well written "Species Recovery Plans" but the species are getting extinct without timely and strategic conservation action at the grass root level. He suggested that MoEF should work closely with the state Governments and link local communities, local NGOs and support such joint programmes.

Dr A.J.T. Johnsingh mentioned that he had written twice to Tamil Nadu on the Nilgiri Thar reintroduction project population. However, the Tamil Nadu Government is yet to initiate any action on this.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu assured the committee that he would take this up very soon.

Dr Ranjitsinh was of the opinion that the endangered species conservation was the most important aspect of conservation. The approach has been that State Governments are responsible for formulating Action Plans. However, the recovery plans are not adequate and are not effectively implemented by the State Governments. He also added that there should be a nodal officer in the MoEF for monitoring and overseeing the progress. The Ministry should make this as a pivotal exercise. He quoted the example of the Hangul, that is the State Animal and State Emblem of Jammu & Kashmir, but the species is now on the brink of extinction and the State Government was doing very little to help the species. He said the same was the case with the great Indian Bustards.

Ms Perna Bindra agreed with Dr Ranjitsinh and said that there must be a nodal cell for the Species Recovery Programme, which focuses on critically endangered species. She

stressed the need to raise the profile of these species, and pleaded for urgent and time bound action for their conservation.

The chairperson urged the Chief Wildlife Wardens to take a serious views on the endangered species programme. She added that the State Governments are now more concerned with project proposals rather than concentrating on the conservation of endangered species and therefore, she was forced to take a view that unless concrete proposals for conservation of endangered species are forwarded by the State Governments, proposals for diversion of wildlife habitats shall not be considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL.

Dr. Madhusudan was of the opinion that there was a need of institutionalizing the entire process and for this reason, a dedicated species recovery unit with adequate resources should be created in the Ministry, specifically to look into this aspect. He quoted the example of National Tiger Conservation Authority, where tiger conservation has now been institutionalized.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Jammu and Kashmir mentioned that there was already a sub- committee of Standing Committee on Hangul and that the State Government had worked on it. He added that the issue of shifting of the Sheep farm is already under consideration by the State Board for Wildlife and the Forest Department was exerting pressure for relocation of the Sheep farm.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana mentioned that the States are concerned about the endangered species. She added that in Haryana, a collaborative project on Vulture recovery and conservation is already underway and has been showing good results. In addition to Vulture conservation, the State has also taken up conservation programmes on Chinkaras, Peafowls and pure gene Red Jungle Fowl. However, the most important factor in recovery programmes is the lack of expertise in the relevant fields.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra mentioned that Great Indian Bustards are seen in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. During August 2013, about 25 birds had been sighted in Maharashtra. For successful implementation of the recovery programme of Great Indian Bustard, a collective action by all the range states is essential.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan mentioned that way back in 2011, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan had requested the Ministry for rationalization of boundary of the Desert National Park. Accordingly, a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh had visited the sites and submitted their report. There are about 79 villages inside the Desert National Park. The State Government has also received some funds under the JICA project and habitat improvement for Bustard conservation. He added that the Birds are now sighted in the Sudasri area of the Desert National Park. The CCF, Jodhpur had sighted five pairs of birds in a new area adjoining to their actual nesting sites. He said that there was also a meeting with all other Departments like Water, Power, etc and the CCF has also submitted a management plan for the next 10 years for conservation of the species. A committee was also constituted by the State Government under the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, wherein Ms. Prerna Bindra, Dr. Asad Rahmani and Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda were also members. The Member Secretary reminded the CWLW, Rajasthan that the report submitted by the committee under the chairmanship of Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh on rationalization of Desert National Park was sent to Rajasthan more than a year ago and the proposal from the State is still awaited.

The chairperson once again urged the State Governments to forward the status report at the earliest and requested the Addl. DGF(WL) to monitor the progress in this matter. She also mentioned that she would try to work out a best possible option to handle this matter.

Agenda item by Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh:

(i) Harvest exotics to generate funds and get firewood:

Dr. Johnsingh mentioned that most of the protected areas in the country has plantations of exotic species like Eucalyptus, Cassia siamea, *C. spectabilis* and teak (exotic in north India) in protected areas like Rajaji, Dudhwa, Mudumalai, etc. He said that exotics are ecological misfits in the area where they occur. He suggested that the Forest Department should harvest species like Eucalyptus and teak, sell them and deposit the money in the respective Tiger Foundation. Mudumalai TR also has large number of Eucalyptus, *C. siamea* and *C. spectabilis*, which should be uprooted and used for firewood for cooking food for elephants. Presently dry wood is collected from the forest for cooking which includes fallen logs which offer shelter to many smaller organisms. He said that *C. spectabilis*, an ornamental tree but of no value to wildlife, is an ecological threat in Mudumalai, Bandipur, Nagarhole and Bhadra Tiger Reserves.

Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that there was a clear provision in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 that there shall be no removal of forest produce from any Sanctuary/National Park and in case anything is so removed with recommendation of competent authority, the same should be used only for meeting the bonafide personal use of the people living within or around the Sanctuary/National Park and not to be put to any commercial use.

The Member Secretary, NTCA mentioned that they are not in agreement with the proposal of cutting trees, especially in the Core Critical Tiger Habitats.

The committee, therefore, decided not to agree to the proposal.

(ii) Regulation of traffic in the forests south of Periyar Tiger Reserve

Dr. Johnsingh mentioned that forests stretching south of Periyar in Ranni, Konni and Achankoil forest divisions is one of the most extensive forests we have in Western Ghats and it is home to king cobra, Great Hornbill, Nilgiri langur, lion-tailed macaque, tahr, gaur, elephant and tiger. This stretch also possibly has the longest road in the southern Western Ghats approximately 75 km, from Angamoozhi to Vallakadavu, via Moozhayar, Kakki, Pampa and Gavi (1200 m). Being a 'high altitude location' in southern Kerala, Gavi is a favoured tourist location. Tourists from Pathanamthitta district, driving from Angamoozhi to Gavi, a distance of about 60 km. throng in Gavi which is an expensive place to stay. So the tourists simply drive from Angamoozhy to Gavi, 'relax' for some time and return back. This causes enormous disturbance to the habitat and wildlife of the area. There are also reports of road kills. This needs to be controlled with prescribed number of vehicles and speed breakers. With guidance from Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India and help from local Panchayat bodies Kerala Forest Department may be able to regulate the traffic.

The committee, after discussion, decided to write to the State Government of Kerala for taking appropriate safety measures in this connection.

Agenda items by Ms. Prerna Bindra:

(i) Forest Frontline Staff- India's Green Army.

Ms. Prerna Bindra mentioned that this matter was also considered during the 29th meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL and the Hon'ble Chair had understood and appreciated the need for the welfare of the frontline staff. She said that in her agenda note, she had outlined the need for a policy to govern recruitment, posting and promotion for uniformed staff. It also proposed welfare measures for the staff. The agenda proposed that both central and state governments formulate a plan within a given timeframe, and its financial implications. Once approved, states may be advised to implement the plan in a time bound manner. She requested that some action could be taken up in this regard.

The chairperson agreed that a committee under the chairmanship of the DGF&SS, with Ms. Prerna Bindra, Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, Shri Kishor Rithe, Dr. Rajesh Gopal, and the Addl. DGF(WL) as members be constituted immediately and appropriate follow-up will be taken.

(ii) CAMPA funding for voluntary relocation from within PA's:

Ms. Prerna Bindra said that this agenda was essentially a follow-up of the agenda taken up in previous meetings. She desired to know the status of the funds to be released from the principal of CAMPA for voluntary relocation from core critical tiger habitats, and stressed its urgency given that people were petitioning to move out. She mentioned that people from within Protected Areas, other than Tiger Reserves--and even in forests outside PAs -, are desperate to move out of such remote forests and into the mainstream. As suggested before, the CAMPA funds could be utilised for their relocation purpose. She mentioned that the MoEF, had already written to the states in this regard in 2010 but aside from one or two states, this has not been followed. She said the Ministry needed to pursue this with the states. Also, as minuted in an earlier SC, NBWL, it was agreed to place before the National CAMPA Advisory Council for their consideration and approval that a percentage of the CAMPA be earmarked for voluntary relocation, She also mentioned that she had also written to the Ministry in this regard earlier.

Shri Kishor Rithe mentioned that the Government of Maharashtra has used the CAMPA money for relocation of villages from PAs (Nawegaon NP and Tipeswar WLS) other than Tiger Reserves. This should be followed by other states.

Dr. M.D. Madhusudan mentioned that during the last meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL, he had explained that people in many PAs have voluntarily sought relocation. The CAMPA Co-ordination Committee should incentivise the use of CAMPA fund for relocation. If States do this they should be provided with additional fund. He added that if we could incentivize this aspect, then probably we may get better results, as now it appears like penalizing the villagers by asking them to relocate.

The chairperson requested Ms. Prerna Bindra to prepare a draft agenda for the next meeting of the National CAMPA Advisory Council (NCAC).

(iii) Key wildlife Corridors to be brought under the purview of the Standing committee, National Board for Wildlife:

Ms. Prerna Bindra said that though the agenda had been brought up in several meetings before as a joint item, it was yet to be adequately addressed. She stressed that the agenda proposed notifying key wildlife corridors and elephant reserves as Eco Sensitive Zones. She proposed that the committee on elephant corridors should expand its mandate, or a similar committee be set up to strengthen and notify identified tiger corridors as ESZs. She added that till such time that the committee comes up with its recommendations, it is requested that diversion of forest land in Elephant Reserves and elephant corridors identified and demarcated by the state government/central government, and diversion of forest land from tiger corridors identified by WII-NTCA and state governments be immediately brought under the purview of the Standing Committee of the NBWL.

Dr. Madhusudan mentioned that the connectivity for elephants is a serious issue and the committee constituted under the Project Elephant Division is working towards this front. He added that about 70 corridors had been identified and there is a need to take follow-up action and notify these corridors so that any diversion of land in these areas follow some procedures. He also mentioned that presently, the Elephant Reserves are created under an executive order by the respective State Governments and can also be denotified by another executive order, which is worrisome. He requested that to safeguard the present elephant reserves from being denotified, the Standing Committee should take a decision that until the Project Elephant Committee on Elephant corridors submits their report, no state Government should de-notify the Elephant Reserves.

The chairperson mentioned that while Tiger Corridors have already been identified, it was essential to define elephant corridors using rigorous scientific data and protocols and this process had already been initiated. She mentioned that an advisory would be issued to the States indicating that that until the Project Elephant Committee on Elephant corridors submits their report, no state Government should de-notify the Elephant Reserves.

(iv) Eco-Sensitive Zones around Protected Areas:

Dr. Madhusudan mentioned that there is some misunderstanding among the State Governments in drawing the boundaries of the Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries, especially over the land ownership matters. He added that the members of Standing Committee of NBWL could offer valuable inputs in analyzing eco-sensitive zones proposals received from the State Governments. He also urged that the Standing Committee should also be involved in this process.

The chairperson mentioned that she too had objected to the manner in which the width of eco-sensitive zones have been identified. She said that we need to look into each site in a site specific manner and there should be clear justification while proposing natural barriers as the boundary of eco-sensitive zones. She also added that an oversight mechanism for reviewing the Eco-sensitive zone proposals could be formed and that she would work out this mechanism soon. The Ministry has also issued letter stressing that where proposals have not

been forwarded, the eco-sensitive zones will extend upto a default width of 10 kms around National Parks and Sanctuaries.

Agenda by Shri Kishor Rithe:

(i) Arranging special meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL:

Shri Kishor Rithe mentioned that in order to appreciate the crucial steps taken by the Government of Maharashtra, we may convene a special meeting of the Standing Committee in Nagpur or Mumbai. He added that the Government of Maharashtra has also taken keen interest in holding this meeting.

The chairperson mentioned that she would consider having one such meeting in Maharashtra.

(ii) To stop fresh encroachments in PAs due to Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights)- 2006 -Forest Rights Act (FRA) implementation in PAs in India

Shri Kishor Rithe mentioned that a number of instances of encroachments in Protected Areas have been recorded to register the claims on forest lands under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights)- 2006 (FRA) and there are several instances of mis-interpretation of the FRA. He added that the MoEF need to get factual data from the State Governments about encroachments inside PAs after 13th December 2005 and specially the fresh encroachments. He mentioned further that Wildlife Protection Act 1972 under sec-20, 27(3), 29, imposes bar on accrual of fresh rights, prohibits causing damage to PA boundary and destruction of wildlife habitat in PAs respectively.

MoEF should ensure compliance under sec-20, 27(3), 29 of WPA 1972 by asking states to take measures to stop fresh encroachments in PAs. The states/UTs should be asked to report such fresh encroachment incidents after 13th December 2005 from the PAs to the MoEF. He also requested chairperson to take up the matter with Minister for Tribal Affairs to issue clarification on Sec-4(5) of Chapter-III of FRA 2006

The chairperson mentioned that she would study this issue carefully and also that there is required to be discussions with the Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Affairs on this issue.

(iii) Tiger and Rhino poaching

Shri Kishor Rithe mentioned that he had raised this matter during the last meeting of the Standing Committee also and requested for forming a committee to have a nation-wide strategy for controlling tiger and Rhino poaching.

The chairperson mentioned that Ministry had taken all efforts to work with the respective state Governments to effectively control the poaching of tiger and rhinos. She added that a national seminar in collaboration with the CBI was also organized on this issue.

It was decided to constitute a High level committee under the chairmanship of the Addl. DGF(WL) with ADG, NTCA, Chief Wildlife wardens of Range States and 2-3 members of Standing Committee of NBWL.

Agenda No. 4

Fresh proposals for taking up non-forestry activities within 10 kms from boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries

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

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for use of 2.3 ha of Dirok Tea Estate land falling within 10 kms from the boundary of Dehing-Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary for drilling of appraisal well, Assam by M/s Hindustan Oil Corporation Ltd. The proposed drilling is located in Dirok drill site and 1.5 km approx. from the Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary. The total land requirement for each of the three drill sites would be about 2.3 ha. He added that as per the proposal all the 3 Drill Sites are located close to black top access roads which would be adequate to carry the load of heavy vehicles during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases. However, the approach, approximately 200-300 m for Drill Sites-1 and 100-200 m for Drill Sites-3, road from access road to the drill site would require strengthening.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam mentioned that the proposal has been granted the Environmental Clearance.

Ms. Prerna Bindra was of the opinion that satellite maps indicated that Drill Site 1 was even closer to the Dehing Patkai sanctuary than indicated in the proposal. This was of particular concern, and called for closer scrutiny. She mentioned that there are other concerns regarding the impacts of proposed drilling on the wildlife. The issue in this particular region was that there were oil rigs all over, and one needed to consider their cumulative impact. One important thing is that the old drilling sites are abandoned, and these should be decommissioned, and restored to the forest. She pointed out that these forests were very rich with several endangered species such as the hoolock gibbon, Asian elephant, white-winged wood duck and no less than seven cat species--including the tiger--had been recorded.

The Member Secretary, NTCA mentioned that NTCA had no reports of tiger movement in that area.

Dr. A.J.T Johnsingh mentioned that recent studies conducted by Dr. Kashmiri Kakati has recorded presence of tigers in the nearby forests.

Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that although this is an exploratory drilling, in case oil is struck, then what are the alternatives and what mitigation steps need to be taken is to be understood.

Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda mentioned that the mitigatory measures for evacuation and recycling of effluent material need to be clearly spelt out.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam informed that the EIA and EMP reports are available based on which the EAC had recommended the Environmental Clearance for the project. The conditions stipulated are recommended by the EAC.

The chairperson opined that EMP and EIA are different from NBWL recommendations. There is a clear impact of the project on the wildlife in the near vicinity and therefore the members have raised their concerns.

The committee after discussion decided that a team comprising of Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh and Ms. Perna Bindra would conduct site inspection and submit their report.

4.2 Proposal for establishment of industrial Estate at Ghatti near Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary, Jammu & Kashmir. (2 kms from Jasrota WLS).

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for establishment of industrial Estate at Ghatti near Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary, Jammu & Kashmir. He added that as per the project proposal, the proposed project is not being set up inside the Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary, but is located at a distance about 2 kms from its boundary.

Ms. Perna Bindra desired to know the justification for an industrial estates in the vicinity of a Wildlife Sanctuary; and if alternatives had been seriously explored, and if so, why there were not being considered. She also desired to know of the nature of industries proposed.

Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda desired to know if the industrial estate would be drawing water from the nearby river. He added that in case they were drawing water from the river, then it should be made a condition that the water would be drawn from the downstream of the river and the effluents shall be released in the upstream of the river. He also desired to know the plans of the Forest Department for using the 3% project cost being paid by the project proponents.

Shri Kishor Rithe opined that it would be in fitness of the project proponents to shift the site from the vicinity of the Wildlife Sanctuary, as after the industrial estate is set up, for establishing each and every industrial unit in this area, would require recommendation of the Standing Committee of NBWL, in the future.

The Chief Wildlife warden, Jammu and Kashmir informed that alternative areas were duly considered before finalizing the proposed site. The other sites were close to the international boundary and therefore, were not feasible. The matter was also discussed in the State Board for Wildlife twice and only 'green' and 'orange' category projects would be allowed to be established in this site. The Cabinet had also given their approval for this unit. He added that the Forest Department has prepared a plan for soil and moisture conservation activities in the sanctuary.

After discussion, the committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions, as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Jammu & Kashmir:

- i. *No red category industry shall be established in the Industrial Estate Kathua.*
- ii. *Only green category units shall be established opposite the peripheral area of the sanctuary.*
- iii. *Effluents from the Industrial estate shall be released more than one (1) kilometer downstream the Ujh barrage, only after treatment as per notified norms. Release of untreated effluents will be considered violation of the EPA, 1986.*
- iv. *3% of the project cost i.e. Rs.2.50 crores shall be spent for the activities in the Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary and Ujh barrage including baseline studies for future impact on flora and fauna.*
- v. *Green belt of sufficient width will be developed around the project site at the cost of the project in consultation with the Forest Department.*
- vi. *In addition avenues plantation will be taken up along the roads and housing complexes within the industrial area.*
- vii. *No blasting operations shall be taken up during the construction and operation phase.*
- viii. *All activities of construction and operation shall be taken up during day time.*
- ix. *No diversion of water from Ujh River for use of the industrial estate shall be permitted.*
- x. *Air and water quality monitoring stations shall be established near Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary and Ujh barrage.*
- xi. *During the construction phase labour camps will be supplied fuel other than fuel wood by the user agency.*
- xii. *River and dry nallah course and natural gullies will be kept free from dumping of solid waste, fly ash and sludge near the project site.*
- xiii. *Effective soil conservation measures like plantations in degraded areas, gully plugging and check dam and bio engineering stabilization will be taken up around the barren landscape and nearby drainage basin.*
- xiv. *The zonation of industries shall be so decided that the ambient air quality and water quality within 10 kms of the industrial area remains within the prescribed limits. Amongst the orange category, the less polluting industries will be selected.*
- xv. *A committee of officers under the Chairmanship of Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)/Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu and comprising of Regional Director, State Pollution Control Board and CF East Jammu and officer Incharge of Industrial Establishment of Ghatti Kathua shall monitor the conditions related to environment in addition to the authorities notified as empowered for this purpose.*

- xvi. *The user agency while implementing the project will abide by the stipulations under Environment Protection Act, 1986 by Ministry of Environment and Forests and State Pollution Control Board.*
- xvii. *Only selected orange and green units shall be established subject to clearance wherever required from the competent authority.*

4.3 Proposal for restoration and blacktopping of existing service road of Don Branch Canal, Bihar, near Valmiki Tiger Reserve.

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for restoration and blacktopping of existing service road of Don Branch Canal, Bihar. He added that as per the proposal, black topping of this road may improve the patrolling inside the V.T.R. and also increase the socioeconomic condition of adjacent villages due to better road communication. Project does not require any diversion of forest land.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar mentioned that this was an existing road along the border of the sanctuary and presently it was not black topped.

The Member Secretary, NTCA mentioned that they could have some safeguards for mitigation of wildlife deaths.

The committee, after discussion, decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions, as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar:

- i. *High speed vehicles may prove to be hazardous for the wildlife inside the sanctuary. Therefore, speed breaker at regular and short intervals should be constructed on the proposed road.*
- ii. *Structures to check fragmentation of habitat should be constructed at identified places. The plan for such mitigation measures will be prepared in consultation with the Tiger Reserve.*

4.4 Proposal for rehabilitation and upgradation of NH-15 from Amritsar to Sri Ganganagar near Punjab/Rajasthan Border of km.103+000 to km 398.772, Punjab. (within 10 kms from the boundary of Harike Wildlife Sanctuary).

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for 4-lanning/upgradation of NH-15 from Amritsar to Sri Ganganagar near Punjab/Rajasthan Border of km.103.000 to km 398.772, Punjab. He added that as per the proposal, the existing alignment passes through Harike Wildlife Sanctuary (from km 161+800 to km 163+850) situated at the confluence of Beas and Sutlej rivers bordering district Tarn Taran, Kapurthala and Ferozpur. In the present project, a bypass has been proposed along the sanctuary which is falling within 10 kms from km 158+500 to 168+400 to avoid diversion within Harike Wildlife Sanctuary area. The proposed project road located within 1.3 km from Harike Wildlife Sanctuary.

As the Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab was not present in the meeting, the committee decided to defer the proposal.

4.5 Proposal for rehabilitation and upgradation of NH-15 from Amritsar to Sri Ganganagar near Punjab/Rajasthan Border of km.103+000 to km 399+000, Punjab.(within 10 kms from the boundary of Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary).

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for 4-lanning/Upgradation of NH-15 from Amritsar to Sri Ganganagar near Punjab/Rajasthan Border of km.103.000 to km 399.000, Punjab. He added that the minimum distance of the Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary is 3.60 km from the existing road. The entire area of sanctuary is private or community owned land of 13 Bishnoi villages.

As the Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab was not present in the meeting, the committee decided to defer the proposal.

4.6 Proposal for 330 MW Bokang Bailing HE Project at Pithoragarh Distt., Uttarakhand-Survey & Investigation which includes drilling/driftng activities at the project site.

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for 330 MW Bokang Bailing HE Project at Pithoragarh Distt., Uttarakhand-Survey & Investigation which includes drilling/driftng activities at the project site. He added that Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 13th August 2013 in the matter of Alaknanda Hydro Power Co. Ltd. Vs. Anuj Joshi & ORS directed MoEF as well as State of Uttarakhand not to grant any further environmental clearance for any hydroelectric power projects in the State of Uttarakhand, until further orders.

In view of the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal.

4.7 Proposal for diversion of 25.05 ha of forest land in Karimnagar East division for formation of new tank across Marrivagu, Andhra Pradesh.

The Member Secretary mentioned that the proposal was for diversion of 25.05 ha of forest land in Karimnagar East division for formation of new tank across Marrivagu, Andhra Pradesh. He added that as per the proposal of earthen bund will fall in compt.No.271, 277, 287 & 288 of Manthani Reserve Forest and the portion of the surplus weir (0.409 ha) falls in compt. No.271 of Manthani RF which is included in Siwaram Wildlife Sanctuary. The total activity of construction of earthen bund including the submergence area will fall within the proposed eco-sensitive zone around Siwaram Wildlife Sanctuary. The Marrivagu is a branch of river Godavari and it meets river Godavari downstream of Siwaram Wildlife Sanctuary which is located on river Godavari.

Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that submergence of the area would probably help in conservation of crocodiles and could act as a buffer [*and would probably be harmful*]. He opined that the impounded area should remain with the Forest Department.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh mentioned that the proposal was to create a new tank in the adjoining area of the Sivaram Sanctuary. He said that the impounded area would remain with the Forest Department only.

The committee, after discussion, recommended the proposal subject to the condition that the impounded area would remain with the Forest Department only and such conditions, as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh.

4.8 Proposal for laying of Natural Gas Pipeline by GSPL India Transco Limited (GITL) in the vicinity of (within 10 kms) of Sivaram Wildlife Sanctuaries, Andhra Pradesh.

4.9 Proposal for laying of Natural Gas Pipeline by GSPL India Transco Limited (GITL) in the vicinity of (within 10 kms) of Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuaries, Andhra Pradesh.

4.10 Proposal for laying of Natural Gas Pipeline by GSPL India Transco Limited (GITL) in the vicinity of (within 10 kms) of Coringa Wildlife Sanctuaries, Andhra Pradesh.

5.9. Diversion of 12.28 ha of forest land from Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary for laying of subsea pipeline system by Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation consisting of one well fluid pipeline, one effluent disposal pipeline and one optical fibre cable buried below Neelarevu River Bed, Andhra Pradesh.

The above **four proposals** listed in the Action Taken Report of the 29th meeting were taken up together for discussion:

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh mentioned that the State Board for Wildlife while considering the above proposals had sought the details of alternate sites. A feasibility study was also undertaken and it was found that the proposed site caused the least damage to the sanctuary and other habitats. He added that already there was a Reliance pipeline in the region and these four proposals were being laid along the existing pipeline only.

The committee, after discussion decided to recommend the proposals subject to the condition that the Forest Department should not transfer any Forest land/Sanctuary land for this purpose and the following condition as stipulated by the State Board for Wildlife:

- i. 5% of the investment cost of the pipeline in the vicinity of protected Areas/Eco-sensitive zone/Forest area, for the improvement of the habitat of the three sanctuaries besides which the pipeline passes.*
- ii. The modalities of management of this amount for the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, will be done in supervision of the Sanctuary management.*

4.11 Proposal for mining of the minerals named Quartz & feldspar in the vicinity of (within 10 kms) of Todgarh-Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary. The proposed site is 7 kms away from the notified boundary of Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for mining of the minerals, viz., Quartz & feldspar by way of open cast in revenue and private land. The proposed area of 42.5919 ha falls outside the sanctuary at a distance of 7 km from the notified boundary of Tadgarh Raoli wild life sanctuary.

Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda informed the committee that the Environmental Clearance for this project was still awaited.

The committee therefore, decided to defer the proposal till the Environmental Clearance is received.

4.12 Proposal for construction of 3930 flats of one room, 1 Bed room, 2 Bed room and 3 Bed Room under U.T. Employees Scheme to be constructed at 52, 53 &56, Chandigarh by Chandigarh Housing Board.

4.13 Proposal for expansion of PGIMER, Chandigarh namely:

- i. Construction of 250 bedded hospital with a total built-up area of 25823.73 sq.m to provide hospital facilities in PGI.**
- ii. Construction of National Institute of Para Medical Science (NIPS College) with built-up area of 3536 sq.m.**

4.14 Proposal for construction of 8896 small flats (4 storeyed) at Maloya-I Chandigarh by Chandigarh Housing Board.

4.15 Proposal for construction of Multi Level Parking near Gurdev Studio, Sector-17, Chandigarh by Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh.

The above four proposals were taken up together for discussion.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Chandigarh informed that the Sukhna Lake was an excellent habitat for migratory birds. Dr. A.J.T Johnsingh appreciated that the Chandigarh Administration for maintaining these sanctuaries very well which brought back wildlife such as sambar and leopard in this area.

The committee, after discussion, decided to recommend all the four proposals subject to all conditions as stipulated by the State Board for Wildlife.

Agenda No. 4.2

Proposals for diversion of forest land of within National Parks and Sanctuaries

4.2(1) Diversion of 0.25 ha of forest land from Vikramshilla Gangetic Dolphin Wildlife Sanctuary for Bhagalpur Water Supply project which structure comes at the middle of sanctuary stretch of 50 km from Sultanganj to Kahalgaon, Bihar.

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal involved diversion of 0.25 ha of forest land from Vikramshilla Gangetic Dolphin Wildlife Sanctuary for Bhagalpur Water Supply project. The main structure is proposed at the middle of sanctuary along the stretch of 50 km from Sultanganj to Kahalgaon, Bihar. He added that the project involves construction of two intake wells of about 12 meter diameter each in river Ganga at about 100 meter downstream of present Vikramshila road bridge and about 100 meter inside the river from bank.

Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh opined that some research work has been carried out on the Gangetic dolphins and the following two issues regarding protection to Dolphins are pertinent to be considered:

- i. Killing of Dolphins by fishermen which is used as a bait to get dolphin oil for catching fish
- ii. Incidental catch of Dolphins during fishing

Dr. Ranjitsinh added that the fishermen should be sensitized regarding the use of alternate bait for fishing and that the fishermen should be provided with adequate compensation for cutting their fishing nets to release the Dolphins when they get entangled in their nets during fishing operations. He also suggested that there is need to monitor the noise from the intake well during pumping operations, as dolphins are very sensitive to noise.

Dr. M.D. Madhusudan mentioned that there were studies undertaken by the Bhagalpur University regarding the eco-location of Dolphins and such studies should be used for both assessing the impact of vibrations during the drawl of water from the river as well as assess the cumulative impacts of similar projects on the eco-location and behavior and breeding of the Gangetic Dolphins. He also indicated that there should be some system in place for mitigating the noise from the intake well.

Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda mentioned that the WWF-India had also taken up some research studies on the Gangetic Dolphins.

Dr. Sunil Choudhury, Professor, Bhagalpur University explained research study undertaken by them on River Dolphins in Sultanganj area during the last 15 years. Two reports were brought out in this regard, which describe the impacts on dolphins. He said that even if the drawl of water is taken up at maximum i.e. 156 mld, the change in water level would be 3.6 meters. Although acoustics are crucial for the movement of River Dolphins, there have been no studies undertaken regarding this. Based on the study Data available for the Amazon River and the Yang-tse River systems, the noise and vibration level is expected

to be 90-100 decibels. He also added that during 1998 survey, the population of dolphins was about 90-98 while during the last survey, the number of dolphins have gone upto 200 and one of their best habitats is along the Bhagalpur region of the River Ganga where average depth is 10-12 mt and at places it is 23 mt.

After discussions, the committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

- i. The area would remain in the custody of the Forest Department.*
- ii. There shall be regular monitoring of the impact of the intake well on the dolphins.*
- iii. The fishermen should be sensitized regarding use of baits for fishing*
- iv. Compensation to be paid to fishermen for cutting nets to release the dolphins caught accidentally.*
- v. Mitigatory measures to be taken for reducing the vibration noise of intake well to the minimum.*
- vi. The Management Plan of Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin sanctuary is under preparation. The user agency will support management of the Dolphin habitat and assist the local forest department in protecting the Gangetic Dolphins*
- vii. Since the Gangetic Dolphin is declared a National Aquatic Animal, the user agency shall bear the cost of the studies regarding monitoring of the hydrology and the quality of water within the sanctuary area at a periodical basis and the result of such studies should be communicated to the local forest department authorities. The user agency shall not change/obstruct or cause to change the course of flow of the Ganges and shall not raise other permanent structure in the sanctuary area.*
- viii. The user agency will ensure that there is no violation of any of the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1986 and other related acts, rules framed by the Govt. of India/State Govt. regarding control and management of rivers and aquatic animals.*
- ix. The user agency will abide by the conditions imposed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar, the State Board for Wildlife, the National Board for Wildlife and other competent authorities which are authorized as per law who may impose any other conditions based on the factual outcome after the implementation of the project.*
- x. The continuous monitoring of key parameters (on which project is based) will be undertaken by user agency throughout the project life cycle and appropriate actions shall be taken by the user agency after discussion with the Chief Wildlife Warden.*

4.2(2) Denotification of Abubshehar Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana.

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for denotification of Abubshehar Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana. He added that the Abubshehar Wildlife Sanctuary is spread over the private area owned and cultivated by private land owners. There are old road network, irrigation channels, residential areas including temples, Govt. buildings and electric tubewells within this wildlife sanctuary

Ms. Prerna Bindra mentioned that the State Board for Wildlife minutes were of 1998 and therefore, this proposal need to be revisited. She said that such denotifications were not advised, and would set a damaging precedence. Haryana as it is had very insufficient area under PAs, and she said that an equivalent area, if not a greater area needs to be notified as a PA by the state, if the SC, NBWL were to consider this proposal. She suggested expansion of Kalesar or including forests like Mangarbani which needed urgent protection, to be considered by the state. She suggested that this be seriously considered before placing such a proposal before the board.

Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh desired to know the population status of Black Bucks in the sanctuary and in the Bishnoi villages and what has been the trend in the population statistics of Black Bucks in the region. He also requested the Chief Wildlife Warden to consider **converting** the Sanctuary to a 'Community Reserve', as well as to add an equivalent area of good forests along the Shivalik Hills, in the Simbalwara – Kalesar area, to make good the loss of this area.

Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda desired to know as to what had happened since 1998 after the State Board for Wildlife had recommended the proposal.

Dr. Asad Rahmani was of the opinion that the Basai wetlands between Bindwas and Sultanpur could also be considered for declaration of Protected Areas. Dr. A.J.T Johnsing mentioned that in 2003 tiger pug marks were seen in Kalesar (Haryana) and Simbalpara (Himachal Pradesh) Wildlife Sanctuaries.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana explained that Haryana has 3.8% of land under forest cover. The Abubshehar Sanctuary has 11 villages and completely under private ownership. The Settlement officer while exercising his powers under Section 19-26 had agreed to the rights of the people for taking up their day-to day activities. However, there have been attacks on Black Bucks by stray dogs. Keeping in view the hardship faced by the local people and the administrative difficulty by the wildlife staff in implementing the provisions of sanctuary in the area, it is essential that Abubshehar Wildlife Sanctuary spread over in eleven villages be denotified. She added that she could look into the issue of declaration of other areas as protected Area as well as scaling down the Sanctuary to a Community Reserve.

After discussions, the committee decided to await the response of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Harayana.

4.2(3) Diversion of 0.6 ha of forest land from Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary for strengthening & widening (3 mts to 7 mts) of Nimbahera-Kanera-Bijaypur-Bass-Amba existing BT road MDR-20 between km 60/500 to 74/0 (Bijapur to Bassi Chaouraha) km 67/950 to 68/450, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for diversion of 0.6 ha of forest land from Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary for strengthening & widening (3 mts to 7 mts) of Nimbahera-Kanera-Bijaypur-Bass-Amba existing BT road MDR-20 between km 60/500 to 74/0 (Bijapur to Bassi Chaouraha) km 67/950 to 68/450=500 mtr. X12 Mtr=6000 Sqm.or 0.6hc of PWD land out of 0.74 hc khasara No.330 of Keljher village. Only

construction permission required on existing carriage way 3.00 Mtr.BT to 7.00 Mtr., Rajasthan.

After discussions, the committee decided that in the light of the guidelines adopted by the Standing Committee for roads passing through Protected Area, the road could be strengthened but cannot be widened and that the status of the road should remain same, i.e, if it was black topped earlier, then it could be black topped; if it was cement road, then it could be cemented.

4.2(4) Diversion of 52.41 ha of forest land from Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary for widening and upgradation of 2 lane to 4 lane of existing Baghana Gomti Section from km 147.000 to km 177.050 of NH-8, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for Diversion of 52.41 ha of forest land from Todgarh-Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary for expansion of 2-lane to 4-lane of existing Baghana Gomti Section from Km 147.000 to km 177.050 of NH-8, Rajasthan. The project road stretch between Bheruguda village (km 148.00) and Barssi (km 162.000) having length of 14.00 km passing through Todgarh-Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajsamand district.

After discussions, the committee decided that in the light of the guidelines adopted by the Standing Committee for roads passing through Protected Area, the road could be strengthened but cannot be widened and that the status of the road should remain same, i.e, if it was black topped earlier, then it could be black topped; if it was cement road, then it could be cemented.

4.2(5) Diversion of 9.94 ha of forest land from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of New Railway Line Broad Gauge (BG) between Agartala to Sabroom, Tripura.

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for diversion of 9.94 ha of forestland from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of New Railway Line Broad Gauge (BG) between Agartala to Sabroom, Tripura. Agartala-Sabroom, New Railway Line Project will provide rail connectivity between the cities of West Tripura, Shipahijalla, Goomati & South Tripura Districts of Tripura State.

Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that Trishna Sanctuary has more primates than any other Protected Area in the country. He suggested that the portion bisected by the railway line which is about 25-30 km², could be denotified and an equal area could be added to -this PA or another, as this small bisected portion would serve no conservation purpose.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Tripura, who is also a qualified primatologist, mentioned that the railway line passes through the north eastern edge of the Sanctuary. He added that that part of the Sanctuary was entirely rubber plantations devoid of rich biodiversity. He also added that the proposed Railway line shall also be a strategic line, which will provide rail connectivity up to Bangladesh International Border (i.e. up to Sabroom). Two alternative alignments other than the selected alignment were checked for the construction of railway line between Udaipur-Sabroom section, none other than the selected Alignment was found technically, financially & socially suitable for the purpose.

Dr M.D. Madhusudan desired to know the status of wildlife within 10 kms from the boundary of the Trishna Sanctuary. CWLW informed that there is no wildlife within the boundary of sanctuary close to the proposed railway line.

After discussion, the committee decided to carry out a site inspection by Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh and Dr. A.J.T Johnsingh and submit a report.

5.1 Diversion of 0.9898 ha. of Forest Land in Nellikal Reserve Forest of WLM Nagarjuan Sagar Division for laying Intake Pipeline/Jack Well/Pump House etc for Nellikal LIS, in favour of Executive Engineer, APSIDC, Miryalguda, Nalgonda.

The Member Secretary informed the committee that Proposal for diversion of 0.9898 ha. of Forest Land in Nellikal Reserve Forest of WLM Nagarjuan Sagar Division for laying Intake Pipeline/Jack Well/Pump House etc. for Nellikal LIS.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh mentioned that the proposed pipeline is aligned along the National Highway.

Shri Kishor Rithe mentioned that he does not have any objection for this proposal as this is along the National Highway. However he suggested that the permission should be granted on a condition that the state Government should relocate the irrigation colony situated in the core area of Nagarjun Srisailam Tiger Reserve (NSTR).He added that the Nagpur bench of Mumbai High Court has already passed an order on 22 April 2002 in Writ Petition No. 320 of 2001 to relocate similar colony from the core area of Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra. The same order is applicable to NSTR too.

The Chief Wildlife Warden clarified that the earlier condition has been brought to the notice of the State Government and the Chief Wildlife Warden was pursuing the matter with them. He also mentioned that the Inspector general of Forests, NTCA had also inspected the site.

The committee, after discussion, decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that prior approval of NTCA would be obtained before commencing any work on ground and that land occupied by the Irrigation colony shall be handed over to the Forest Department. The following conditions, as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh were also approved by the committee:

- i. The pedestal over which pipeline runs in the 900 meter stretch towards the reservoir should be at sufficient height over the ground, (of nearly 4ft.) in at least 4 to 5 places identified by forest department in places where animal trails cross it, so that it works as an under pass for the animals and their movement is not restricted due to the pipeline.*
- ii. Water will be provided, by the project. if available, during summer season to the tankers of the forest department to fill the saucer pits meant for wild animals in the surrounding area.*

5.2 Proposal for installing the stone crusher by ITBP for construction of three roads viz, Sonam, PDA-Sumla and PDA-Mendi roads in Gangotri National Park, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand.

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was for installing the stone crusher by ITBP for construction of three roads viz, Sonam, PDA-Sumla and PDA-Mendi roads in Gangotri National Park, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. He said that the Standing Committee of NBWL had earlier recommended for construction of these roads.

The Chief Wildlife Warden suggested that the project proponents should come up with a comprehensive proposal indicating the activities they plan to undertake in the said road stretch, the mitigatory measures for diesel emission, impacts on biodiversity and overall environment, carbon monoxide emissions and then the committee consider a holistic proposal.

Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that the proposal would result in a lot more impact than what has been indicated. The proponents should give a clear picture regarding the movement of debris from the site, etc. He added that there were chances that the workforce would bring dogs along with them and these dogs threaten the lives of wild sheep and other ungulates that are found in those areas. He desired to know as to whether an assurance could be given by the project proponent that no overburden would be tipped over the sides of the road into the valley and any violation in this regard would result in stopping of work. He also mentioned that the Chief Wildlife warden himself was not satisfied with the proposal. He also desired a compliance report on the work that has already been undertaken on the basis of the earlier recommendation of the Standing Committee of NBWL.

He also stressed that the often the project proponents come with piece-meal proposals and seek recommendations of the Standing Committee, presenting *fait-accomplis* situations, which should not be encouraged. He said that every proposal should be self explanatory and all the activities envisaged under the particular project should be explained for judicious consideration of the committee.

Ms. Prerna Bindra mentioned that the same concerns were also raised during the meeting of the State Board for Wildlife, wherein the ITBP could not clarify the position on new roads. She added that they appreciated the strategic importance of the roads but the impacts on wildlife were also equally important. The SBWL had also communicated to the ITBP, that they needed to address the wildlife concerns *vis a vis* this. Also, it had been recommended in the SBWL meeting, that, in lieu of this, there must be reopening of the dialogue regarding the Gola elephant corridor. There had been high level talks between the MoEF and the ITBP in this regard in which the latter had taken a very positive view regarding shifting from this crucial elephant corridor.

Shri Kishor Rithe stated that the details of length of each road, a quantum of metal they need etc should be mentioned in the proposal. He desired to know the need for such crusher as the material to be crushed will come from outside the PA. If it is so, then why not install the crusher outside?

The Representative of CPWD, Uttarakhand, mentioned that the Standing Committee of NBWL had recommended for construction of roads in 2008 and they had completed the formative processes and that about 22 kms were already completed. He added that now they would be black topping the roads as well. He explained that the crusher will be installed within this width as per the earlier approved right of way only.

After discussions, the committee decided to await the compliance report on the earlier recommendations of the Standing Committee of NBWL as well as await a holistic and comprehensive proposal from the project proponent on this project.

The meeting thereafter, ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

ANNEXURE-1

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE 30TH MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE
OF NBWL HELD ON 4th September 2013.**

1	Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment & Forests	Chairperson
2	Dr. V. Rajagopalan, Secretary, Environment & Forests	Invitee
3	Shri K. Jude Sekar, Director General of Forests & Special Secretary	Member
4	Dr. S.S. Garbyal Addl. Director General of Forests & Director, Wildlife Preservation	Member-Secretary
5	Shri A.K. Srivastava Addl. Director General of Forests (FC)	Invitee
6	Shri R.K. Goyal Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	Member
7	Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh	Member
8	Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda	Member
9	Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh	Member
10	Dr Asad Rehmani, Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai.	Member
11	Ms. Purna Bindra	Member
12	Dr. M.D. Madhusudan, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore	Member
13	Shri Kishore Rithe, Satpuda Foundation, Amravati.	Member
14	Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Member Secretary, NTCA	Invitee
15	Shri B.S. Bonal, Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority	Invitee
16	Dr. S.K. Khanduri, Inspector General of Forests (WL)	Invitee
17	Dr. A.K. Gupta, Pr.CCF and Chief Wildlife Warden, Tripura	Invitee
18	Dr V.B. Mathur, Dean, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	Invitee
19	Shri S.S. Sharma, Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand	Invitee
20	Shri A.K. Singh, Chief Wildlife Warden, Jammu & Kashmir	Invitee
21	Shri C.N. Pandey, Pr.CCF (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat	Invitee
22	Shri Narendra Kumar, PCCF(WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh	Invitee
23	Shri S.W.H. Naqvi, PCCF(WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra	Invitee
24	Dr. Amarinder Kaur, Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana	Invitee
25	Shri A.S. Brar, Addl. PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan	Invitee

26	Shri Arvind Kumar, Principal Secretary & PCCF/Chief Wildlife Warden, Sikkim.	Invitee
27	Dr A.K. Gupta, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Tripura	Invitee
28	Shri Suresh Chand, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam	Invitee
29	Shri Lakshmi Narayan, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu	Invitee
32	Dr. Rupak De, PCCF cum Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh	Invitee
33	Shri A.V. Joseph, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh	Invitee
34	Shri B.A. Khan, Addl. PCCF cum Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar	Invitee
35	Mr. Vivek Saxena Deputy Inspector General of Forests (WL)	Invitee
36	Shri Shiv Pal Singh, Joint Director (WL)	Invitee
