

**Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board
for Wildlife (NBWL) held on 8th June, 2006 in the
Ministry of Environment and Forests.**

The 7th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) was held on 8th June, 2006 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests. The list of participants who attended the meeting is at **Annexure-I**.

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

Agenda Item No. 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 20th January, 2006.

Member Secretary informed that the comments from Shri S.C. Sharma and Shri Ravi Singh had been received. However, the Minutes circulated have reflected the final decision of the Standing Committee. Therefore, there was no need to make any change in the minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were taken on record as confirmed. Shri S.C. Sharma requested the Hon'ble Chairman to organize a meeting to discuss technical matters pertaining to wildlife conservation. Hon'ble Chairman directed Additional DG(WL) to convene a meeting of professional members of the Standing Committee at the earliest to discuss the technical issues.

Agenda Item No.2: Action taken report on the recommendations made by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife in its meeting held on 20th January, 2006.

2.4 Guidelines for diversion proposals

Member Secretary informed that the comments from Shri S.C. Sharma and Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka have been received. He proposed that after incorporation of the comments received by Members, the draft Guidelines would be circulated to the Members and would be put up in the next meeting for final approval. Chairman agreed with the proposal.

2(4 xvii) Diversion of 84 ha of forest land from Nagarjuna Sagar Tiger Reserve, Andhra Pradesh, for construction of Srisalam Left Bank Hydro Electric Scheme by Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation.

Member Secretary informed that it was a case of post-facto-approval submitted before the Standing Committee. The work has already been carried out by the project proponents (A.P. GENCO, a State Public Sector Unit) in contravention of existing laws as well as directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court. After detailed deliberations and considering the recommendation of Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh, the Committee recommended the proposal with the conditions of taking necessary action against the erring officials as per the law and the compliance of measures as proposed by Chief Wildlife Warden in his report. M/s A.P. GENCO informed the Committee that they agree with the proposal of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh. Other requirements like payment of Net Present Value (NPV) etc. have also to be complied with by M/s A.P. GENCO as per the existing rules and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme court.

2(4 xix) Dereservation of forest land from Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka for construction of Hogenekal Hydro Electric Power Project by National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Ltd.

As decided in the last meeting, the site inspection was carried out by Dr. R.B. Lal, IGF(WL), Smt. Maya Singh, M.P. and Shri Darshan Shankar. After deliberations, the Committee recommended the proposal of survey with the conditions of no felling of trees, completion of survey work in a minimum possible time, no permanent construction in the Sanctuary and provisions of the Forest and Wildlife Protection Act to be strictly followed by the project staff. Survey work should be carried out only during day time.

2(3 xviii) De-reservation of 12.75 ha of already broken Forest Land from Kotgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Orissa for mining by T.P. Minerals.

Member Secretary informed that the site inspection report has been received. The inspecting team comprising of Ms. D. Variava and Dr. Sushant Choudhary has recommended the proposal subject to certain conditions which include voluntary and annual contribution of Rs.25.00 lakhs by the project proponents i.e. M/s T.P. Minerals creating a fund for Wildlife protection and Community Development leading to wildlife conservation. The inspecting team has also proposed 11 other conditions, which relate to development of Environmental Management Plan by M/s T.P. Minerals, employment of 600 local persons etc. M/s T.P. Minerals was agreeable to the conditions. The Standing Committee after discussions recommended the proposal subject to the compliance of conditions envisaged in the report of the inspecting team.

2(5) Diversion of Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary area of 600.72 ha of the total forests area 1965.052 ha proposed for Durgawati Reservoir Project

The site inspection report has been received. Shri M.C. Malakar, Chief Wildlife Warden who was the member of the inspecting team informed the Standing Committee that in the instant case out of total requirement of 2029.802 ha of forest land, 600.72 ha of forest land is part of Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary. Violation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 has been done by

the project proponents and vide their letter dated 5.11.2004, Ministry of Environment and Forest State Government has been requested to initiate action against the officer responsible for violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and stopping of work etc.

Considering the socio-economic implications of the project and the recommendations of the inspecting team, Standing Committee recommended the project subject to the compliance of the conditions envisaged in the report of the inspecting team which are as follows:

- (i) The directions incorporated in the letter of the Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests of 28th March, 2005 should be strictly carried out. The points pertinent are mentioned here:
 - State Government may be approached to withdraw notification No.Vanbhumi-65/2002-843(E)VP dated 5th November, 2004 immediately.
 - The Water Resource Department may be directed to restrict its construction activities within 64.75 ha of forest land released in 1975 and it should be in conformity with the map submitted earlier by the user department.
 - The construction activities for the above project may be stopped immediately and should not be taken up until all the mandatory approvals are received.
 - Action against officials responsible for violation of the Act may also be initiated.
- (ii) Forest area twice in extent of sanctuary area permitted to be diverted i.e. approximately 1200 ha shall be included in the Kaimur wildlife Sanctuary and such area should be notified as part of the Wildlife Sanctuary before the final approval for diversion.
- (iii) The Forest Department should be provided with sufficient funds to enable them to take up the required measures for the protection, conservation and improvement of the infrastructure and the flora and fauna of the area. A Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared and allocation of fund strictly to the extent required shall be made available by the project authorities before hand.

The money so provided shall not be deposited as revenue or any such head of account, rather it should be constituted into a non lapsable fund by an appropriate order of the State Government for its effective timely and purposeful utilization with proper assessment and monitoring.

- (iv) The boundary of the land diverted should be delineated clearly on a map as well as demarcated on ground by erecting concrete pillars with numbers and bearings to avoid any problem in future.

3(a) Diversion of 91.701 ha of forest land from Askot Wildlife Sanctuary for Dhauliganga Intermediate Stage Power Project by NHPC and Diversion of 175.05 ha of forest land from Askot Sanctuary for Goriganga Stage-III – A Power Project by NHPC.

After perusing and discussing the reports of Wadia – Institute and National Institute of Geophysics, the Standing Committee cleared the Gauriganga Stage-III (A) and Dhauliganga Intermediate Stage Power Project involving diversion of 175.05 ha and 91.701 ha of forest land respectively from Askot Wildlife Sanctuary with the following conditions: -

- i) Regular monitoring of measures to be taken/being taken by the NHPC as recommended in the report of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Ecology, Dehradun, by the existing Monitoring Committee.
- ii) Area of the sanctuary should be suitably increased by the State Government by adding equivalent or more area.
- iii) Payment of NPV and compliance of other existing instructions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter.

3(5) Diversion of 3267 ha of forest land for Indira Sagar (Polavaram Project) across Godavari river in Khamam Rajahmundry and Visakhapatnam Forest Circles, Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuary.

Dr. Anmol Kumar, DIG(WL) who inspected the project site along with Shri Darshan Shankar briefed the members about the details of recommendations of inspecting team. On

a query regarding seat of dam, Secretary (Irrigation) Andhra Pradesh informed that the seat of dam was outside the protected area. After discussions and considering all the aspects, the Standing Committee recommended the Polavaram Irrigation Project involving diversion of 187.29 ha of forest land from the Papikonda Sanctuary subject to the following conditions: -

(a) Since project implementation would involve intensive construction activities which would directly/indirectly effect the habitat and wildlife, it would, therefore, be necessary that the project implementing agency/irrigation department would ensure that: -

- No labour camps are kept within Sanctuary area.
- Arrangements for fuel wood and small timber required by the labour has to be organized by project proponents. In no case any damage on this account to be caused to the habitat.
- No domestic cattle's would be permitted with the labourers in the vicinity of reserve forest/sanctuary area.
- Any other condition in this regard suggested by the CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN has to be complied by the project proponents.

(b) It is also necessary that before recommendations coming into effect, proper strengthening of wildlife wing in Khammam and Rajamundry forest circle needs to be done on priority, as the sanctuary will be managed effectively only when necessary infrastructure and manpower is provided to the Wildlife Wing.

(c) State Government would declare Udatpalli Reserve Forest (5103 ha) of Eluru on as part of Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuary. The management of the river after completion of the project would continue to rest with the State Forest Department.

3(6) Destruction of habitat of the highly endangered Jerdon's Courser

Shri S.C. Sharma, member, informed the Committee that in this case CEC has already directed the State Government to take necessary action by realignment of the canal. ADG(WL) also informed that report of CCF, Bangalore had been received and the Ministry would write the State Government to take necessary action to protect the habitat of Jerdon's Courser.

Agenda Item No.3: Fresh Proposals.

3(1) Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, Jammu and Kashmir.

After detailed deliberations, it was decided to seek the comments of WII, Dehradun on the proposal before considering it for clearance.

3(2) Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Jammu and Kashmir

Considering the minimal area (1.1925 ha) requirement and the problems of the State Government for providing drinking water, the Standing Committee unanimously recommended the project subject to the directions of the Supreme Court including payment of NPV etc.

3(3) Panna Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

After detailed discussion, it was decided to get the area inspected by Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka and Dr. Alfred who will submit their report to the Committee before the next meeting. The matter would be considered in the next meeting..

3(4) Ratapani Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh

The committee discussed the proposal since the area required is only 1.056 ha. and Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal. The Standing Committee unanimously

recommended the proposal subject to the existing directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court including payment of NPV etc.

3(5) Son Ghariyal Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh

The proposal for conducting survey and construction of 1.32 K.V. Transmission line was discussed by the Standing Committee in details. The Standing Committee considering the recommendation of Chief Wildlife Warden, the Standing Committee unanimously recommended the proposal for carrying out the survey.

3(6) Pench Mowgli Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh

The proposal was discussed by the Standing Committee. After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal for the survey work with the condition that project proponent would also carry out another survey for alternate route avoiding the sanctuary area. Modalities of both the surveys would be discussed by the committee later.

3(7) Construction of Gwalior-Agra 765 KV Transmission Line within Chambal River Crocodile Sanctuary. (Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan)

The proposal is for diversion of 12.8 ha. of sanctuary area each in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for laying the 765 KV transmission line. After detailed discussions, the proposal for diversion was recommended by the Standing Committee with the condition that the project proponents would take appropriate measures in consultation with Wildlife Institute India, Dehradun for the safety of wildlife from electrocution etc. These recommendations are subjected to the existing directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

3(8) Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary

After detailed deliberations the Standing Committee decided that state government may place this piece of land measuring 0.01 ha on long lease with the applicant with a condition that no further construction shall be added to the existing structure or created afresh.

3(9) Buxa/Jaldapara/Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, West Bengal.

The proposal for laying oil pipeline parallel to the existing pipeline within the existing steep of 18.2 metres width was discussed by the Standing Committee. Considering the recommendations of Chief Wildlife Wardens and the fact that proposed pipeline was running parallel to the already existing pipeline within the existing strip of 18.2 metres width, the Standing Committee recommended the project. The recommendations are subject to existing directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

3(10) National Ghariyal Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

Since the project proponent was not present, Standing Committee did not discuss the matter and it was postponed to the next meeting.

3(11) National Chambal Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

The proposal is for construction of an intake well involving diversion of only 2.37 ha. of land in the sanctuary. Out of 2.37 ha, notified forest land is on 0.069 ha. After discussions, the Standing Committee unanimously recommended the proposal of construction of intake well as per the proposal subject to the condition that minimum level of water in the Chambal river as required for ghariyal and other aquatic animals found in the sanctuary would be maintained.

3(12) Renuka Wildlife Sanctuary, Himachal Pradesh

This proposal was earlier recommended by the Standing Committee on 06-04-2005 subject to compliance of ten conditions. Chief Wildlife Warden, H.P. briefed the Standing Committee about the relief sought by the State Government for relaxing the four conditions: -

- i) Reserve forest and protected forest forming part of Renuka Territorial Range would be notified as a Wildlife Sanctuary. The total extent of sanctuary including the existing sanctuary should not be less than 20 sq.kms.

Submission of the State Government

Extension of sanctuary is not possible due to thickly populated habitations all around having a large cattle population, scattered patches of forest burdened with rights etc. however, the sub-merged area of the project would be included in the sanctuary bringing the total area of sanctuary 15.976 or 16 sq.kms. Hence waiver of the shortfall of 4 sq.km. may be given.

- ii) Of the 326 sq.kms. of forests forming part of the catchment area of the dam, 200 sq.km. area should be notified as a sanctuary. This initiative is crucial to reduce silt load of the Giri river on the upstream side of the dam and thereby increasing the life span of the reservoir.

Submission of the State Government

In the catchment on the upstream of the proposed dam, 4 wildlife sanctuaries already exist covering an area of 167 sq.km. Thus there is a shortfall of 33 sq.kms. from the recommended 200 sq.kms. Since the remaining forest areas are scattered, intersperse with thickly populated habitations and burdened with rights, it is not possible to declare the remaining area as sanctuary. Further, Himachal Pradesh has about 12.79% of its geographical area under protected area network as against the national average of 4.7%. In this background, the shortfall of 33 sq.kms. may be waived off.

- iii) Closure of the road bifurcating the sanctuary and constructing an alternative road bypassing the sanctuary area.

Submission of the State Government

The condition would be complied with. However, till the road is constructed existing road may be allowed to be used for the traffic.

- iv) Ashram Complex be shifted outside Sanctuary.
- v) Tourist Complex be developed into a Wildlife Interpretation Centre.
- vi) Handing over tourist Guest House to Forest Department.

Submission of the State Government (for iv, v and vi above)

It is not possible to comply with these conditions for various reasons including religious ones. However, no further expansion of Ashram in any form would be permitted. No personnel's other than the persons engaged in the maintenance of the temple would be allowed to stay overnight in the tourist complex. Wildlife Interpretation Centre is being located within the range office premise for better coordination and monitoring. The Standing Committee may agree to the submissions of the State Government. The handing over of tourist complex to forest department would serve no purpose except adding liability on the part of forest department.

The Committee deliberated on the matter in detail. It was also observed that the area of the sanctuary was very small i.e. only 4.02 kms. Chief Wildlife Warden, H.P. informed that additional area of about 12 sq.kms. is being added to the sanctuary making it more viable. After detailed deliberations, the Committee agreed with request of the State Government relaxing the conditions as proposed by the State Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

1. Proposal for laying of pipeline through the Ambaji Sanctuary, Gujarat.

Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat informed the Committee that earlier this proposal was recommended by the Committee subject to the condition of no felling of trees. However, there was the requirement of felling 53 trees for laying the underground pipeline. After considering the difficulty detailed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal involving diversion of 0.9782 ha of Ambaji Sanctuary and felling of 53 trees subject to compliance of existing directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court and payment of NPV etc.

2. Construction of 400 KV transmission lines by Power Grid Corporation of India involving diversion of 93.17 ha. of land in Jawahar Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

It was decided to get the area inspected by Shri S.C. Sharma, Member, Standing Committee and Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan before considering the proposal.

3. Permission for non-intrusive surveys in National Parks/Sanctuaries by Military/Para Military Organizations.

Committee observed that the matter need not be discussed by the Committee. In any case, Chief Wildlife Warden can permit entry in the protected area for any non-intrusive observation.

4. Diversion of 11.9 ha. of land of Ratapani Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh for laying water supply pipeline.

Considering the problems of drinking water in Bhopal, and the recommendation of the Chief Wildlife Warden, the standing Committee recommended the proposal of diversion of 11.9 ha. of the Ratapani Sanctuary for using under the drinking water scheme as recommended by Chief Wildlife Warden. The recommendation of the committee is subjected to compliance of existing directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter.

5. Laying of optical fibre cable by BSNL in the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh.

After discussions the committee unanimously recommended the proposal for laying the optical fibre cable through Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary affecting an area of 0.45 ha. in the sanctuary. The recommendation of the committee is subjected to compliance of existing directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter.

6. Rationalization of boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries in Himachal Pradesh.

The Standing Committee observed that the proposal of rationalization of the boundary be first considered by the Committee formed this purpose under the chairmanship of Addl. Director General (WL).

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the Chair.

List of members attending the meeting of the Standing Committee for National Board for Wildlife held on 8th June, 2006 in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

S.No.	Name of the Members	Designation
1.	Dr. Thiru A. Raja, Minister of Environment & Forests	
2.	Shri Namo Narayana Meena, Minister of State	
3.	Shri J.C. Kala, Director General & Special Secretary	
4.	Dr. Pradipto Ghosh, Secretary	
5.	Dr. R.P.S. Katwal, Addl. Director General	
6.	Shri R.B. Lal, IGF (WL)	
7.	Dr. Anmol Kumar, DIG (WL)	
8.	Shri S.C. Sharma	Member
8.	Dr. J.R.B. Alfred, Zoological Survey of India	Member