

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL BOARD FOR WILD LIFE

**DATE: 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2004.**

**VENUE: Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life, was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Environment & Forests (IC). The list of members and participants is at **Annexure I**. The minutes of the meeting are as under:

At the outset the Hon'ble Minister welcomed the members and requested for their introduction, as this was his first meeting after assuming the office.

### **Agenda Item No. 1: Confirmation of minutes of the meeting**

The Member-Secretary, while giving details of the comments received on the minutes of the last meeting by Ms. Dilnavaz Variava, sought the confirmation of the minutes. The members desired that the draft minutes be circulated within one month from the date of the meeting in order to facilitate them to send their comments within three weeks. The members agreed to adopt the comments except the following:

- i) The words '**State Government**' to be retained instead of the word '**Ministry**' in agenda item no. 4 (1 to 6). Further the word '**submit**' to be retained instead of the word '**finance**' in the same agenda.
- ii) The original paragraph mentioned in the draft minutes in respect to agenda item 4 (12) regarding diversion of Betla National Park for laying of optical cable to be retained.

The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2003 were confirmed with above observations.

**Agenda Item No. 2:** Action taken on the recommendations of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life in its meeting held on 24.12.2003.

**(a) Denotification of Salim Ali City Forest National Park, Jammu & Kashmir.**

The Member-Secretary informed that no comments have been received from the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir on the issues raised by the committee during the last meeting. It was decided that the attention of the State Government shall be drawn to the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court giving a deadline of one month to respond.

*(Ref: Agenda item no. 2 (a) of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)*

**b) Shifting of Raiwalla Ammunition Dump in Rajaji National Park**

The Member-Secretary informed that the site inspection could not be conducted. Some members opined that this has been an long standing issue with the Ministry of Defence and a number of site visits have already been conducted without much headway. The Member-Secretary requested the Chairperson to take up this issue with Defence Minister at his level. The Chairman agreed to the request and also desired that in the meanwhile, officers of the Ministry and members may also simultaneously continue to find an amicable solution. It was also decided to drop the agenda item for further discussions.

*(Ref: Agenda item no. 2 (b) of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)*

**c) I.A. No. 27 of 2002 in C.W.P No. 337 of 1995 – Diversion of 142.699 ha of additional forest land from Sunabeda Sanctuary, Orissa, for Upper Jonk Irrigation Project in Nuapada District.**

The Inspector General of Forest (FC), MoEF informed the Committee that the file pertaining to the Upper Jonk Irrigation Project, Orissa is being reconstructed. It was decided that a self contained factual report will be prepared by IGF (FC) to be circulated to the members at the earliest.

*(Ref: Agenda item no. 2 (c) of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)*

(d) Proposals concerning Askot Musk Deer Sanctuary and Govind Pashu Vihar Sanctuary:

1. **Re-alignment of Askot Musk Deer Sanctuary**
2. **Re-alignment of Govind Pashu Vihar.**
3. **Diversion of 91.701 ha of forest land from Askot Sanctuary for Dhauliganga Intermediate Stage Power Project by NHPC.**
4. **Diversion of 175.05 ha of forest land from Askot Sanctuary for Goriganga Stage III A Power Project by NHPC.**

e) **I. A. No. 896-898 in W. P (C) No. 202/1995- Diversion of 175 ha (34 Kms) of forest land from Askot Musk Deer Sanctuary for laying of transmission line.**

On (d) the Member-Secretary informed the committee that the response from State Government is yet to be received. The Committee desired that an early action should be taken by the State Government to complete the settlement process.

*(Ref: Agenda item no. 4 (1-6) of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)*

Regarding (e) the Member-Secretary informed the committee that the Power Grid Corporation had sent a formal request to de-link conditions no. (i) and (ii) specified by the Standing Committee in its meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2003 .Their contention was that these two conditions were to be fulfilled by the State Government and the process of settlement will take long time affecting the laying of transmission line. The committee, after deliberation, decided to de-link conditions no. (i) and (ii) from the recommendations. The condition no. (iii), as stipulated in the meeting held on 24-12-2003 would remain and further it was recommended that the following conditions would be complied by the Power Grid Corporation and the state government:

- i) The legal status of the sanctuary would remain unchanged.
- ii) Permission for laying the transmission line is recommended as one time activity. The project proponent will seek

- necessary permission of the competent authority every time they enter the Protected Area once the task of laying the transmission line is completed.
- iii) The Power Grid Corp. will remove all the staff/workers etc involved in the project from the precincts of the Askot Sanctuary immediately after the completion of work.
  - iv) The project authorities will ensure that no construction activity, whatsoever, is carried out within the Protected Area between sunrise and sunset.
  - v) The project authorities will ensure plantation of appropriate indigenous species in the area of use for laying the transmission line as may be specified by and under the supervision of the wild life authorities.
  - vi) The project authorities would provide all amenities to their staff and workers during the operational period. Under no circumstances, any forest produce including fuel wood, fodder etc would be allowed to be removed from the Sanctuary.

The representative of the Power Grid Corporation and the State Government of Uttaranchal agreed with the recommendations made by the Committee.

*(Ref: Agenda item no 4 (1-6) of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)*

**f. I. A. No. 37 of 2003 in W. P (C) No. 337/1995- Diversion of 48.385 ha (25 Kms) of forest land from Askot Musk Deer Sanctuary for laying 132 KV transmission line**

The representatives from the Uttaranchal Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd, made a detailed presentation on the project proposal. The Committee, after careful consideration recommended that an expert team comprising of Shri. R.B Lal, Inspector General of Forests, MoEF, Ms. Dilnavaz Variava, S.C Sharma and Shri Ravi Singh would conduct a site inspection before 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2004 and place the report before the Standing Committee of National Board.

*(Ref: Agenda item no. 4 (1-6) of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)*

In general, on (d), (e) &(f), it was also decided that the State Government shall add to the Sanctuary, areas identified by the Chief Wild Life Warden, adjacent to Askot Wild Life Sanctuary, as are important for strengthening the status of the wild life conservation in the region, for eg., for maintaining the biological corridor and the

integrity of the area. Such areas shall not be less than the total extent of all areas proposed to be diverted for the purpose of power transmission by all the agencies.

**g Diversion of 3.98 ha of forest land from Sawai Mansingh Sanctuary, Rajasthan, for construction of *Kushalipura nallah*.**

The Member-Secretary informed the Committee that the site inspection had not been conducted . The Committee desired that the site inspection should be conducted soon . The expert team comprising of Shri S.C Sharma, Shri Ravi Singh and Shri Asheem Srivastav, Deputy Inspector General (WL) agreed that the site inspection would be conducted between 29<sup>th</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2004.

*(Ref: Agenda item no. 4 (9) of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)*

**h Diversion of 1.44 ha of forest land from Sri Venkateshwara Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh for construction of ropeway.**

The Member-Secretary briefed the committee about the response of the State Government that was received in the Ministry vide letter of Principal Secretary (Forests), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh No. 9094/Forests-I (1)/2003-2 dated 8.3.2004. The letter mentioned that the compliance of the pre-conditions stipulated under the two projects, viz, 'Kumaradhara-Pasupadhara' and 'Kapilatheertham' may take some time as the proposals for notifying the Seshachalam Reserve forest as sanctuary is under process.

The Committee did not agree to the request of the State Government in view of the fact that the recommendation were made in the months of February, 2002 and February, 2003 respectively and the state government could have notified the reserved forests as sanctuary under section 26 A of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 without loss of time. It was decided that the State Government may be apprised of the decision of the committee.

*(Ref: Agenda item no 4 (10) of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)*

- i I.A. No. 33 of 2003 in W.P (C) No. 337/1995- Diversion of 46 ha of forest land from Radhanagari Sanctuary, Maharashtra for construction of Dhamani Irrigation project.**

The Inspector General of Forests (FC), MoEF informed the committee that the file would be reconstructed as the records were not traceable. The Committee, therefore, decided that the facts should be placed before the Committee after the file has been re-constructed.

*(Ref: Agenda item no. 4 (15) of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)*

- j. I.A. No. 35 of 2003 in W.P (C) No. 337/1995- Diversion of 146.26 ha of forest land from Dalma Sanctuary, Jharkhand for construction of Subarnarekha Multipurpose irrigation project.**

The Member-Secretary informed the committee that the site inspection had not been done so far. The Committee desired that the site inspection be conducted at an early date.

*(Ref: Agenda item no. 4 (16) of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)*

- k. Diversion of 3.98 ha of forest land from Bannerghatta National Park, Karnataka for laying of transmission line.**

The report of the expert team was tabled before the committee and Shri. S. S Bist, Director (Project Elephant) made a detailed presentation on the site inspection. After careful consideration of the report and the presentation and after having a detailed discussion with the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (KPTCL), the committee decided to recommend the project with the following conditions:

- i) There will be no change in the legal status of the Protected Area.
- ii) The user agency, i.e KPTCL would pay an amount of Rs. 1.00 crore for conservation of wild life in the Bannerghatta National Park. The amount would be deposited with the State Chief Wild Life Warden.

- iii) The State Government would add natural habitat equivalent to 39.8 ha to the Bannerghatta National Park.

*(Ref: Agenda item no. 4 (17) of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)*

**I. Diversion of 4.959 ha of forest land from Sitamata Sanctuary, Rajasthan for construction of power house.**

The Member-Secretary informed the committee that the site inspection had not been conducted so far. Shri S.C. Sharma and Shri Ravi Singh informed that the site inspection would be conducted during the last week of April 2004.

*(Ref: Agenda item no. 4 (18) of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)*

**Agenda Item No. 3.**

**Review of inclusion of Edible nest Swiftlets and Holothurians in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.**

The Committee desired that the issue required wider consultations and therefore should be placed as the first agenda for discussion at the next meeting. In the meantime, the documents relating to the Edible nest Swiftlets and Holothurians be circulated to the members. The Member-Secretary informed that the Ministry would circulate the recommendations of SACON on the Edible nest Swiftlets and the minutes of the meeting concerning holothurian to the members. The members may then send their comments. It was also decided to invite representatives of SACON and BNHS in the next meeting.

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

##### **Guidelines for diversion proposals.**

The guidelines proposed by Ms. Dilnavaz Variava were tabled before the committee. The Committee desired that the Ministry may upload the guidelines for diversion proposals suggested by Shri Darshan Shankar and Ms. Dilnavaz Variava on to the Ministry's web site. A month's time could be given for the views of respondents on the guidelines. Thereafter the views received could be collated by Shri Ravi Singh and Shri R.B. Lal, IGF.

#### **Agenda Item No. 5**

##### **Trade regulation for wild medicinal plant taxa**

The Committee desired that before the item is taken up for discussion, a sub committee under the chairmanship of the Addl.DGF(WL) and comprising Shri Darshan Shankar and Shri S.C Sharma give a report on the medicinal plant policy. The Standing Committee would then consider the report of the sub-committee for taking a final view.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6.**

Fresh proposal for diversion/denotification of National Park/Sanctuary area received for consideration by the Standing Committee.

##### **I.A No. in W.P (C) 202 of 1995- Diversion of 12.764 ha of forest land from Chambal sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh for construction of broad gauge railway line.**

The Member-Secretary explained about the proposal to the committee. The representative of the Railways gave a detailed account of the project. The Chief Wild Life Warden, Government of Uttar Pradesh also explained about



the impact of the project on the wild life in the Chambal Sanctuary. The committee, after a detailed discussion, decided that an expert team comprising of Dr. Asad Rahmani, Director, BNHS, Ms. Dilnavaz Variava and Shri S.C Sharma would inspect the site and place the report before the committee.

### **Agenda Item No. 7**

Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

The following two proposals were taken up for discussion with the permission of the Chair:

**a) Diversion of 529.70 ha of forestland from Sitanadi sanctuary, Chattisgarh for construction of Sondhur dam irrigation project.**

The Member-Secretary explained the committee about the project proposal. After deliberations, the Committee decided that an expert team comprising of Mr Darshan Shankar, Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Karnataka, Shri Gokul Ram, Shri S.C Sharma and Shri Aseem Srivastav, Deputy Inspector General would conduct site inspection by mid April, 2004. The expert team would place its report before the committee for its consideration.

**b) Black-topping of road link passing through Dandeli sanctuary and Anshi National Park.**

The representative of the Karnataka State Highway Improvement project made a detailed presentation before the Committee informing that the repair of the road was essential in view of the fact that it was a State highway in existence for the past 50-60 years. It was also pointed out that the present proposal did not include any widening of the road. The proposal basically aimed at repairing and black topping the existing width of the road. The committee, after deliberations, decided that an expert team comprising of Shri. R.B Lal, Inspector General of Forests (WL) and Shri Darshan Shankar would conduct a site inspection and place a report before the committee.

In conclusion, the members of the committee suggested that the State Governments may be asked to furnish, as far as possible, details of all projects planned for the next few years relating to irrigation, power, road, drinking water supply, etc where National Park/Sanctuary land is involved, to the Ministry for consideration.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS PRESENT IN THE MEETING OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL BOARD FOR WILD  
LIFE HELD ON 18.03.2004**

1. Shri. Ramesh Bais, Hon'ble MEF (IC) - **in the Chair.**
2. Smt. Maya Singh, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) - Member
3. Dr. Prodipto Gosh, Secretary (E &F) -Member
4. Shri. N.K. Joshi, DGF &SS, MoEF - Member
5. Shri Darshan Shankar, Director, FRLHT, Bangalore - Member
6. Ms. Dilnawaz Variava - Member
7. Shri Ravi Singh - Member
8. Shri S.C. Sharma - Member
9. Shri. N. Gokul Ram, Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Karnataka - Member
10. Shri. M.C. Malakar, Chief Wild Life Warden,  
Government of Assam - Member
11. Dr. J.R.F. Alfred, Director,  
Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata. - Member
12. Shri. Vinod Rishi, Addl. DGF(WL), MoEF – **Member-Secretary**

Officials from MoEF.

1. Shri. V.K. Bahuguna, Inspector General of Forests (FC)
2. Shri S.S Bisht, Director, Project Elephant
3. Shri R.B Lal, Inspector General of Forests (WL)
4. Shri Asheem Srivastav, Deputy Inspector General (WL).

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