



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

6th Floor, Vayu Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi 110 003
Date: 26th September 2018

F.No.6-111/2018 WL

To
All Members
Standing Committee of NBWL

Sub: Minutes of 50th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife- reg.

Sir / Madam,

Kindly find enclosed copy of the Minutes of 50th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 7th September 2018 through Video Conference under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Pasupala Ravi)
Scientist C

E-mail: ddwlmeff@gmail.com

Encl: As above

Distribution

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

Copy to

- (1) PS to Hon'ble MoEF&CC
- (2) PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
- (3) PPS to Addl.DGF(WL), PPS to IGF(WL)

**MINUTES OF 50th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL BOARD
FOR WILDLIFE WAS HELD OF 7th SEPTEMBER 2018**

The 50th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife was held on 7th September 2018 through Video Conference under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change. List of participants are placed at ANNEXURE- I.

Hon'ble Chairman welcomed all the participants to the 50th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife and asked the IGF(WL) to initiate the discussions on the Agenda Items.

AGENDA ITEM No. 1

Confirmation of the minutes of the 49th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 13th June 2017

The IGF(WL) mentioned that the minutes of the 49th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 13th June 2017 were circulated to all the members of the Standing Committee on 29th June 2017. However representations were received from the State Government of Maharashtra to amend the minutes of 49th meeting of the Standing Committee on the following proposals:

- 49.4.2.1 Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes by M/s. Reliable Housing India Pvt. Ltd. at Village Achole, Ta. Vasai, Dist. Palghar. Sy.No. 153-B,154 (pt)**
- 49.4.2.2 Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial construction project by M/s. Rashmi Ameya Developers Housing and Estate Realtors Pvt. Ltd. at Village Gokhivare, Ta. Vasai, Dist. Palghar Sy.No.62 H.No.1&7, Sy.No 63 & others Sy.Nos.**
- 49.4.2.3 Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes by M/s. Ameya Townhome Private Limited at Village Sandor, Ta. Vasai, Dist. Palghar Sy.No.230 H.No. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8; Sy.No.231 H.No.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&9; Sy.No.235 H.No.1/2,2,3,4, 5,6,7,8,9,10,11/1&11/2 and Sy.No 236-H.No.1,2,3,7,8,11,12,13,14, 15,17,18,19,20,21,22, 23-part, 24,25A,25B,27,28 & 29**
- 49.4.2.4 Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes M/s. Navkar Estate & Home Private Limited in Village Juchandra Ta. Vasai, Dist. Palghar Sy.No.332/1,2,3,4,6A,6B,7,B,333/1,2,335/1,2,336/2,3C,3D,3F & 351/1,2**

- 49.4.2.5** Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes by M/s. Shree Tirupati Developers at Village Manpada Ta. & Dist. Thane, Sy.No.59A/2E, 59A/2F & 59A/3A, Borivali
- 49.4.2.6** Proposal for construction of residential cum commercial complexes at Village Temghar Sy.No.128/3,129/1,129/2 and Bhadwad Sy.No.40/1P,40/2/2,40/3/2,40/4,40/5,40/6,40/7,40/8,40/9,40/10,40/11,40/12,40/13/1P,40/13/2,42,43/1,43/2,43/3,44/1P,44/2P, 44/2/P,44/3/1,44/3/2,44/4,4/5,44/6,45/1,45/2P,45/3P,45/4,5/5,45/6,45/7,45/8,45/9,45/12,58 /6,58/7/1,58/7/2,58/8,58/9,58/11,58/12,58/13,58/1,58/16,58/17,58/18,58/19,58/20,58/21,58/22,83/3,83/4,83/6,83/,83/9,84/1 on plot bearing at Ta. Bhiwandi, Dist. Thane by M/s. Prakhhyat Dwellings LLP
- 49.4.2.7** Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes in the Eco-Sensitive Zone of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park and deemed Eco- Sensitive Zone of the Tungreshwar Wildlife Sanctuary (TWLS) at plot bearing S. No. 51/26, 69/13 of Village: Mire and S.No.76/1/2 of Village Mahajanwadi, Taluka & Dist. Thane, Maharashtra by Sanghvi Premises Pvt. Ltd
- 49.4.2.8** Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes in the Eco-Sensitive Zone of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park and deemed Eco- Sensitive Zone of the Tungreshwar Wildlife Sanctuary (TWLS) at Village: Vadavali- Survey Nos. 21/1,21/3, 21/4,21/5,21/6, 21/7,21/8A,21/8B and Village Owale, Old Survey Nos. (New Survey Nos.) 107/8 (72/8), 112/1(71/1),113/1(66/1),113/2 (66/2),113/4,(66/4),113/6 to 19 (66/6 to 19),113/21 to 23 (66/21 to 23),114/1&2(65/1&2),120/1(45/1) in Taluka & District: Thane, Maharashtra by Unnathi Associates
- 49.4.2.9** Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes on plot bearing Old S.No. 98/1A, 1B, New S.No.98/3, and New S.No. 100/11/1,2 & 4 Bhayandarpada, Ghodbunder Road, Thane by M/s. Puranik Builders Pvt. Ltd
- 49.4.2.10** Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes is situated on plot bearing Sy.No.67(111)/1,67(111)/2,67(111)/3,67/(111)/4,67(111)/5,67(111)/6,67 (111)/7,109(70)/1,109(70)/2,71(112)/3,71(112)/4,71(112)/5,72(107)/4,72(107)/6B,110/1,68 (110)/3 of Village– Owale, Ghodbunder Road, Thane by M/s. Sai Pushp Enterprises (PRARAMBH V)
- 49.4.2.11** Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes on plot bearing S.No73(108)1,73(108)/2,73(108)/3,73(108)/4,73(108)/5,73(108)/6,73/(108)7,73(108)/8 of Village Owale, Ghodbunder road, Thane by M/s. Sai Pushp Enterprises (PRARAMBH V)
- 49.4.2.12** Proposal for the construction of residential and commercial complexes on plot bearing S.No.21/11A,21/9, 22/5,22/1,23/2/1, 23/3/1, 23/4 at Village - Vadavli, Ghodbunder road, Thane by M/s. Sai Pushp Enterprises (PRARAMBH V).

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on twelve representations and stated that the proposals were recommended by the Standing Committee in 49th meeting held on 13th June 2017 with conditions and mitigation measures imposed by the State Chief Wildlife Warden. One of the conditions of the State Chief Wildlife Warden was that the project proponent shall deposit 2% of total cost of the project for wildlife conservation of Tungareswar Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining forests.

However the project proponents represented the board to deposit 1% of total cost of the project and in installments as recommended by the State Board for Wildlife. This condition was imposed by the State CWLW on the basis of the decision taken by the SBWL in its 8th meeting held on 20th Feb 2014. But the SBWL in its 3rd meeting held on 31th January 2018 changed its stand of imposing 2% on the project cost for wildlife conservation plan taken in meeting held on 20th Feb 2014 by imposing 1% of the project cost without giving any reason for this change in stand.

Dr H S Singh, Member stated that decision of the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 49th meeting for imposing the condition of payment of 2% of total cost of the project for wildlife conservation is well thought of and is the barest minimum and request of the project proponents should not be taken into consideration.

On being asked by the Secretary, EF &CC the State Chief Wildlife Warden stated that there is no specific reason to reduce the cost of wildlife conservation plan from 2% total cost of the project to 1% of total cost.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided that it will stick to its decision taken in its 49th meeting and that all the twelve project proponents should deposit 2% of total project cost as recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden of Maharashtra.

AGENDA ITEM No. 2

(ACTION TAKEN REPORT)

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

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the Order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai bench and stated that the 1750 MW Demwe Lower Project, proposed to be constructed in the Lohit District of Arunachal Pradesh, is being executed jointly by Athena Energy Ventures and the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh. The Environment Clearance to the project

was granted by the MoEF&CC in 2010 and the project site is 8.5 km away from the Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary. The Standing Committee of NBWL in its 23rd Meeting held on 14th October 2011 wherein it was decided that a site inspection be carried out by Dr Asad Rahmani, Member NBWL and Shri Pratap Singh, CCF(WL), Arunachal Pradesh. After site inspection, two different reports were submitted to the Standing Committee of NBWL. The matter was thereafter considered by the Standing Committee in its 24th meeting held on 13th December 2011. The IGF(WL) also stated that in the 46th meeting, it was decided by the Standing Committee that a Committee comprising of Prof R Sukumar, Member NBWL, one representative of WII and one representative of NTCA would visit the site and submit the detailed report to the Ministry within 30 days for further consideration. However, Dr R Sukumar informed through E-mail about his inability to conduct site inspection and requested to nominate another member for the site inspection.

The Standing Committee in its 47th meeting held on 25th January 2018 decided that the Director, GEER Foundation, Member NBWL, would replace Dr R Sukumar in the aforesaid Committee and requested it to complete site inspection and submit a detailed report to the Ministry within 30 days for further consideration. Committee visited the project site on 25th - 28th February 2018 and furnished the report. In the 48th meeting held on 27th March 2107, Shri R D Kamboj, Member mentioned that a comprehensive peer-reviewed study should be carried out on the hydrology and ecology of three seasons by a reputed and neutral scientific / technical organization(s) before according clearance. Further Dr H S Singh, Member, informed that the impact study of the project has not been carried by the User Agency and the State Government. In the 48th meeting held on 27th March 2107, the Standing Committee decided that the WII, Dehradun to carry out hydrology / ecology study and submit the report to the Ministry in three months. In 49th meeting of the Standing Committee on 13th June 2018, Dr V B Mathur, Member assured that the report would be submitted by 27th June 2018.

Dr Y V Jhala gave brief presentation on the findings of the Site Inspection Report and stated that the hydrological modelling done by WAPCOS is at a very coarse resolution and, with no access to the data, it is not possible to validate the conclusions arrived in their report. In light of this, it is difficult to justify that no inundation of chaporis and low line forests are likely to occur during peaking operations that may be detrimental to aquatic fauna and river biota. Therefore the peaking magnitude is to be determined and an in- depth study on the hydrological aspects is required to assess its impacts. It is understood from the current rapid survey that the daily flooding caused by peaking operations could potentially have the following impacts on aquatic and terrestrial fauna:

- (1) Possible inundation of grasslands and forested habitats in the Lohit river basin because of flooding caused due to peaking operations.

- (2) Possible loss of critical habitats e.g., Small River islands which are important for nesting of birds.
- (3) Due to daily flooding, if water currents are too strong, then it would affect the fishes with respect to their migration, survival of various life stages including eggs, larvae and fries. Strong currents on daily basis would also affect the movement and survival of endangered turtle species.
- (4) Change in the hydro-morphology of river due to daily flooding will also affect movement and survival of river dolphins and their major food species.

Also the EIA studies done earlier for this project limited themselves to a 10 km radius around the dam site i.e. only 10 km downstream from dam site and were therefore inadequate in documenting the biodiversity and the potential impacts of HEP. During the current survey, survey team recorded several critically endangered and endangered species (listed earlier) as well as wet grassland obligate species from the Lohit river basin and floodplains, many of which were not included in the previous assessment report (e.g. EIA report for Lower Demwe HEP 2009, WAPCOS 2011). Seasonal natural floods are an important regulatory factor in maintaining this river ecosystem and in turn, the survival of these species. Any alterations in the flow regime may result in its adverse impact on the associated biodiversity. Hence appropriate mitigation is required while construction the Lower Demwe Hydroelectric Power Plant. Also the threats to chaporis by illegal encroachment and resource extraction are detrimental to the rich biodiversity on these islands. The project's compensatory payment could be well used to rehabilitate communities from the chaporis and wean them to other livelihoods. A detailed study is therefore needed to provide specific sites and options.

During three consultative meetings with the project proponent (M/s. Athena Energy Ventures Pvt. Ltd.), WII team discussed a way ahead. Major impacts were likely to happen in the aquatic realm of the Lohit river ecosystem, due to the peaking mechanism required for the commercial viability of the power plant. WII team is currently not in a position to estimate the amount of damage this circadian flooding of the river would cause. The intensity of the flood and its impact in a region is directly dependent on (a) the topography of the rivers cape (river basin and surrounding Landscape) there, (b) the width of the channel and (C) the quantum of the water released at any one time. However, the currently available information on the topography and width of the river channel is not at the desired resolution, to permit an in- depth assessment of the magnitude of the impact of the quantum of water released during peaking operations. To generate this required information, mapping the rivers cape using Drone and LIDAR technology in collaboration with IIRS (Indian Institute of Remote Sensing/NERIST) is necessary.

Once detailed data on the high-resolution elevation model is available, services of Hydrologists and GIS experts will be availed to depict various scenarios resulting with different magnitudes of water released during peaking operations. Simultaneously, a team of aquatic/freshwater biologists will assess the biota associated with the riverscape and its vulnerability to various intensities of the daily periodic flooding. The combination of these two studies would help determine the maximum water that could be released from the dam with minimal impact on the biota and the river island ecosystem and other necessary mitigation measures to further minimize this impact. This study would take a minimum of 2 years of time. A proposal of the same along with the budget is enclosed with the report (Appendix I). The proponents of the Lower Demwe Hydro Electric Power Plant have given written undertaking that they shall abide the findings of this study, especially regarding the maximum amount of water to be released during peaking operations (Annexure XII).

In the light of the history of this dam site, wherein the submergence zone has been studied and an EIA was approved to give Environmental Clearance (corroborated by Hon'ble NGT), we feel that the creation/construction of the dam per se would not be critical in undermining the biodiversity values of the region. The submergence zone of the dam is a habitat which is available elsewhere within the region and is not critical for the conservation of any known threatened, endangered or critically endangered species' population. This hydroelectric project is 'Run of the River (ROR)' type water which is released. Hence, the amount of river flow quanta is not likely to be altered once the dam is filled and power generation is based on an inflow outflow regime. The filling of the reservoir should be done while maintaining the minimal water flow downstream so as to ensure least impact on riverscape fauna. Therefore, by adhering to the above conditions, water quantum downstream will not be altered and impacts on the biodiversity would be minimal.

It is also recommended to develop a monitoring mechanism by which the recommendations and guidelines provided from the study would be adhered to, in the form of remote sensors placed in the other competent authority, whenever daily flood levels exceed the maximum flood limits. To ensure that the associated linear infrastructure developed for the construction and maintenance of the HEP does not become a barrier to the occasional movement of large mammals like elephants, wild buffalo and tigers, appropriate mitigation measures in the form of wildlife passages (under and over passes) would need to be constructed.

As a consequence of the dam, the risk of having large amount of water-mass stored in a seismically active zone is obvious, and WII is not competent to assess the safeguards to taken in this

regard, In case of dam collapse or breach due to a seismic activity or any other natural calamity, the impact on the biodiversity as well as human life downstream would be devastating.

Taking into account that construction of dam and associated infrastructures would require time (3 to 4 years), it would be prudent to consider the construction of the dam at this stage and subsequently operate it at natural levels of inflow and outflow to generate power. At the same time the proponents may be strictly restrained from the peaking operations and resulting flooding until the above-mentioned study provides appropriate guidelines to undertake the peaking operation I(if any) with minimal impact on the associate biota of river and river-island ecosystem. Accordingly, the NBWL-SC may consider permitting the construction of dam while controlling the minimum and maximum flow, which would be recommended after the outcomes of the proposed study become available (Appendix I). The cost of the 2 year study amounting to Rs. 1,84,92, 000 (Rupees One Crore Eighty- Four Lake Ninety- Two Thousand) should be borne by the project proponent. The proponent must also give an undertaking to the MoEF&CC in writing that they would abide the recommendations of this study and especially those modes in the context of peaking operations. All mitigation measures recommended in this study would also be implemented within the specified time period and for which, the proponent would provide the necessary funds.

After thorough discussions the Standing Committee while accepting WII report “*Rapid Ecological Assessment of Impacts of Lower Demwe Hydro-electric Project on wildlife values*” agreed to the following conclusion of the report

“In the light of the history of this dam site, wherein the submergence zone has been studied and an EIA was approved to give Environmental Clearance (corroborated by Hon’ble NGT), we feel that the creation/construction of the dam per se would not be critical in undermining the biodiversity values of the region. The submergence zone of the dam is a habitat which is available elsewhere within the region and is not critical for the conservation of any known threatened, endangered or critically endangered species’ population. This hydroelectric project is ‘Run of the River (ROR)’ type water which is released. Hence, the amount of river flow quanta is not likely to be altered once the dam is filled and power generation is based on an inflow outflow regime. The filling of the reservoir should be done while maintaining the minimal water flow downstream so as to ensure least impact on riverscape fauna. Therefore, by adhering to the above conditions, water quantum downstream will not be altered and impacts on the biodiversity would be minimal.”

The standing committee also accepted to following recommendations regarding the monitoring mechanism and impact mitigation measures.

“It is also recommended to develop a monitoring mechanism by which the recommendations and guidelines provided from the study would be adhered to, in the form of remote sensors placed in the riverbed at strategic locations that would send an alert signal to the Chief Wildlife Warden or any other competent authority, whenever daily flood levels exceed the maximum flood limits. To ensure that the associated linear infrastructure developed for the construction and maintenance of the HEP does not become a barrier to the occasional movement of large mammals like elephants, wild buffalo and tigers, appropriate mitigation measures in the form of wildlife passages (under and over passes) would need to be constructed.”

The standing committee also accepted to recommendations of the report that Geospatial Analysis of Impacts of Lower Demwe Hydroelectric Project on the Riverine Ecosystems of Lohit Basin will have to be carried out to determine the maximum water that could be released from the dam with minimal impact of the biota and the river island ecosystems and to suggest other necessary mitigation measures to further minimize this impact.

The committee also noted that the proponents of the Lower Demwe Hydro Electric Power Plant have given written undertaking that they shall abide the findings of this study, especially regarding the maximum amount of water to be released during peaking operations.

The standing committee also accepted to following recommendations regarding permission for construction of Dam.

“Taking into account that construction of dam and associated infrastructures would require time (3 to 4 years), it would be prudent to consider the construction of the dam at this stage and subsequently operate it at natural levels of inflow and outflow to generate power. At the same time the proponents may be strictly restrained from the peaking operations and resulting flooding until the above-mentioned study provides appropriate guidelines to undertake the peaking operation (if any) with minimal impact on the associate biota of river and river-island ecosystem. Accordingly, the NBWL-SC may consider permitting the construction of dam while controlling the minimum and maximum flow, which would be recommended after the outcomes of the proposed study become available.

And, therefore, decided to recommend the proposal for construction of dam subject to the following conditions:

- (i) An undertaking or a legal binding instrument is signed by the project proponent to the effect that the project will be operated at its natural levels of inflows and outflows to generate power

and under no circumstance will resort to peaking operation and resulting flooding until the study “Geospatial Analysis of Impacts of Lower Demwe Hydroelectric Project on the Riverine Ecosystems of Lohit Basin” provided appropriate guidelines to undertake the peaking operation (if any) with minimal impact on the associate biota of river and river-island ecosystem.

- (ii) The state government will permit the project proponent to start the work on the project only after study “Geospatial Analysis of Impacts of Lower Demwe Hydroelectric Project on the Riverine Ecosystems of Lohit Basin” is commissioned by the project proponent at the project cost.
- (iii) An undertaking shall be submitted or a legal binding instrument shall be signed by the project proponent to the effect that they shall abide the findings of study “Geospatial Analysis of Impacts of Lower Demwe Hydroelectric Project on the Riverine Ecosystems of Lohit Basin”, including those regarding the maximum amount of water to be released during peaking operations.
- (iv) An undertaking shall be submitted or a legal binding instrument shall be signed by the project proponent to the effect that they shall not stake claims for starting the peaking operation in the event of delay is submission of recommendations of the study “Geospatial Analysis of Impacts of Lower Demwe Hydroelectric Project on the Riverine Ecosystems of Lohit Basin”.
- (v) Before the start of dam construction work all the mitigation measures required to be taken during pre-construction and construction period shall be finalized by the project proponent in consultation with State Chief Wildlife Warden and Wildlife Institute of India and for taking up mitigation measures during post dam construction period an undertaking shall be submitted or a legal binding instrument shall be signed by the project proponent to the effect they will implement all mitigation measures recommended by the current study and by the study “Geospatial Analysis of Impacts of Lower Demwe Hydroelectric Project on the Riverine Ecosystems of Lohit Basin”
- (vi) The six monthly compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the CWLW.

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

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project involves the diversion of cumulative forestland 595.64 ha (42.0 ha from Dharwad Elephant Corridor +

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

Further the IGF(WL) stated that the Site Inspection Committee of NTCA has not recommended the proposal as the proposed railway line from Hubballi to Ankola passes through Uttara Kannada district which has very forest cover and cuts across the Western Ghats, which are a biodiversity hotspot and a world heritage site. It also fragments the old migration path of India elephants. Out of the 6 tiger occupied landscapes of India, currently the Western Ghats landscape possesses best habitat connectivity and contiguity. The Tiger occupancy in the Western Ghats landscape is highly dynamic and shows spatial and temporal variation. Moreover, the recent research has highlighted that future of tigers in India depends on conserving the habitat connectivity isolated tiger population of tiger reserves. The proposed railway line will be having significant negative impact on long term conservation of tigers and other mega herbivores in the Western Ghats landscape by fragmenting existing habitat connectivity and contiguity. In the 48th meeting held on 27th March 2017 the Standing Committee decided that a committee comprising of one representative of WII, one representative of NTCA and one person from the Wildlife Division would visit the site and submit the report to the Ministry within thirty days.

The DIGF(NTCA) stated that the Site Inspection Committee has not recommended the project on the grounds that the proposed railway line from Hubballi to Ankola passes through very forest cover and cuts across the Western Ghats, which are a biodiversity hotspot and a world heritage site. He also stated that the proposed line fragments the old migration path of India elephants, and is one of the six tiger occupied landscapes of India and currently the Western Ghats landscape possesses best habitat connectivity and contiguity. The DIGF (NTCA) also pointed out that State Board for Wildlife not yet furnished their recommendations.

Dr H S Singh, Member stated that more often the state governments are sending the proposals for consideration of the standing committee of NBWL without the recommendations of the SBWL. He suggested that this tendency needs to be curbed.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to refer back the proposal to the State Government along with the reports of the NTCA and Site Inspection Committee with advise to get the

issue examined by the SBWL and submit the recommendations of the SBWL. And also to inform the Ministry of Railways to pursue the matter with the State Board for Wildlife.

The Standing Committee also recommended that the MoEF&CC shall send an advisory to the state governments that they should not submit any proposal for consideration of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife without the recommendations of the SBWL. The proposals received by the MoEF&CC without recommendations of the SBWL will not be taken up by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife and shall be treated as pending at the state level.

42.4.1.15 Diversion of 96.65 ha (Reduced from 131.67 ha) in Muthinakoppa Minor Forest & Aramballi State Forest in Koppa Division for construction of a irrigation canal under the Bhadra Upper Project Package I, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Division 1, Gajanur Shivamogga, Karnataka

&

Diversion of 110.10 ha of forest land (reduced from 186.42 ha) in Bhadravathi Division for the construction of a lift irrigation canal under the Upper Bhadra Project Package II, (lifting of water from Bhadra Tiger Reserve at Ajjampura delivery Chamber) B R Project, Bhadravathi, Karnataka

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee and stated that the proposals were recommended by the Standing Committee in its 43rd meeting held on 27th June 2017 with one of the conditions of constructing closed conduit of 1.91 km passing within the boundaries of Bhadra Tiger Reserve imposed by the State CWLW and Site Inspection Committee. He also stated that the representation dated 11th June 2018 was received from the State Government that the construction of underground close conduit from Pump House to Bhadra Reservoir is technically impossible and requested to permit the construction of technically feasible 0.5 km of close conduit and 1.41 km of open canal.

Further IGF(WL) stated that the matter was referred to the NTCA by this Ministry's letter dated 18th July 2018. The NTCA furnished the reply to this Ministry's letter therein it was stated that the office of NTCA stands by the recommendations of the Site Inspection Committee only.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden and project proponent stated that the construction of close conduit of 1.91 km is not possible technically due to the non-availability of land slope and the presence of hard rocks. He also stated that the project proponent agreed to construct seven overpasses per every 200 m in the stretch of 1.41 km for the passage of wildlife.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the project with the conditions that

- (i) Permission for starting the work on the project shall be granted by the State Government only after acceptance of the justification, submitted by the State Government for non-feasibility of 1.91 km closed conduit, by the WII and NTCA and after finalization of the revised mitigation measures suggested by the State CWLW during the 50th meeting of SC-NBWL in consultation with WII and NTCA.
- (ii) The project proponent shall submit an undertaking to the effect that prescribed mitigation measures will be implemented by them at project cost.
- (iii) The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted to GoI by the State CWLW.
- (iv) The project proponent will comply with any other condition stipulated by the CWLW / State Government.

49.4.1.4 Construction of 1.7 km road from A B road to Girwai via Tilli Factory road in Son Bird Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee in its 49th meeting held on 13th June 2018 and suggested to request the State Government to clarify whether the proposed road is for the public utility or for the factory before taking a final decision on the matter. The State Government stated that the aforesaid project is for the public utility of Girwai village.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the project subject to the conditions that

- (i) Permission for starting the work on the project shall be granted by the state government only when animal passage plan is prepared by the project proponent in consultation with State CWLW on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*.
- (ii) The project proponent will comply with all the conditions imposed by the State CWLW.
- (iii) The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

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

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee on the proposal and mentioned that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee in its 39th, 40th and 41st meetings. The Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the condition that project proponent should ensure no damage to wildlife. The APCCF(WL), Madhya Pradesh mentioned that mining area is a private land and does not form part of any corridor. Further the IGF(WL) stated that the NTCA and the WII have rejected the proposal on the ground that the mining site located within the proposed landscape management plan (also the catchment area of Ken Betua Project) of Panna Tiger Reserve. The Secretary, MoEF&CC received representation on 30.10.2017 to reconsider the proposal from the project proponent. In the 48th meeting of Standing Committee held on 27th March 2017, Dr H S Singh, Member mentioned that no mining should be permitted in the additional area to be added to the Panna Tiger Reserve in lieu of the core area to be diverted for Ken-Betwa river linking project. The Standing Committee in its 48th meeting held on 27th March 2017 decided that the NTCA and the WII to verify the location and furnish the report to the Ministry within one month. During the 49th meeting of the Standing Committee held on 13th June 2018, the DIGF(NTCA) informed that the Site Inspection Committee has inspected the project site and would submit the report in a few days.

The NTCA has recommended the proposal with the following mitigations measures:

1. Since the mines is already operational & is located outside proposed eco-sensitive zone, status quo may be maintained till the current lease period is over i.e., 2020 subject to compliance of all regulations imposed while granting permission by the State Government, including adequate funds to the reserve management and local communities to mitigate the impacts already caused by the mines.
2. Given that the landscape value is critical & important due to increasing tiger population *vis- a -vis* tiger dispersal and habitat loss due to Ken – Betwa River Inter Link Project, the mine should submit closure and reclamation plans, so that further damage is not continued.
3. A proposal of mine should be considered only after the Greater Panna Landscape Management Plan has been prepared and endorsed by the competent authorities as one of important mitigation condition approved by Standing Committee of NBWL in the 39th meeting for Ken-Betwa Project. Meanwhile, no new mine should be permitted in the landscape area.
4. The State Government in consultation with NTCA should assess the feasibility of the mines already in operation in the vicinity of the present mine site *vis-a-vis* its impact on the tiger

dispersal, corridor etc & should ensure that the mines do not operate without the necessary Wildlife & Environment clearances.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the project with the conditions and mitigation measures imposed by Chief Wildlife Warden and the NTCA. The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

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

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, Madurai bench and stated that the District Collector, Theni District of Tamil Nadu forwarded the representations of the petitioners to the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife. The Hon'ble High Court directed the Standing Committee to pass suitable orders within a period of four weeks and intimate decision to the petitioners. He mentioned that the proposal involves the extension of mining lease of the petitioners (two associations by name Sangili Karadu Kalludaikkum Mahalir Nala Sangam and K K Patty Kalludaikkum Mahalir Nala Sangam) for stone quarry in 2.50 ha, each in Kamayagoundapatty village, Uthamapalayam Taluk, Theni District. The mines are located within 5 km from the boundary of Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary and require the recommendation of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife as part of Environmental Clearance.

Further IGF(WL) stated that the issue was considered by the Standing Committee in its 46th meeting held on 8th December 2017. The IGF(WL) also stated that this Ministry's letters vide dated 17.10.2017, 04.01.2018 and 08.02.2018, has requested the State Chief Wildlife Warden to furnish the comments.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden stated that the aforesaid proposal has not been submitted by the project proponent in the prescribed format. Further he also stated that the proposal would be placed in the next meeting of the State Board for Wildlife Going to be held soon.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to defer the discussion on the proposal.

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

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

Further the IGF(WL) stated that this Ministry's letters vide dated 24.11.2017, 18.12.2017, 04.01.2018 and 08.02.2018 requested the State Chief Wildlife Warden to furnish the comments in Part IV, however so far no response has been received.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden stated that the aforesaid proposal has not been submitted by the project proponent in the prescribed format. Further he stated that the proposal would be placed in the next meeting of the State Board for Wildlife Going to be held soon.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to defer the discussion on the proposal.

- 49.4.2.15(vi) Proposal for multi-colour granite S.No.511/A over an area of 2.115 ha situated in Karandapalli village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Surya Mining Agencies**
- 49.4.2.15(vii) Proposal for multi granite over an area of 1.00 ha of patta land falling in S.No.623/1(P) & 623/2(P) situated in Agalakottai village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Loganathan**
- 49.4.2.15(viii) Proposal for block granite over an area of 1.215 ha falling in S.No.322/1(Part) situated in Agalakottai village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited**
- 49.4.2.15(ix) Proposal for block granite over an area at of 1.075 ha falling in S.No.511/1 situated in Agalakottai village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Karnataka State N M granites Private Limited**
- 49.4.2.15(xvi) Proposal for granite quarry located in patta land S.F.No.59/2B, 59/3A (Part), 59/3B, 60/2A & 60/3A over an area of 3.445 ha situated in Karanadapalli village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Surya Mining Services**

- 49.4.2.17(i) Proposal for rough stone quarry over an area of 1.785 ha of S.No. 794/3 located at Padmanagamangalam village, Srivaikuntam Taluk, Thoothukudi District by K Kathirkamaraj**
- 49.4.2.17(ii) Proposal for rough stone quarry over an area of 1.790 ha of S.No.794/1 located at Padmanagamangalam village, Srivaikuntam Taluk, Thoothukudi District by K. Kathirkamaraj**
- 49.4.2.17(v) Proposal for establishment of rough stone quarry over an area of 1.84 ha of S.No. 739/1 located at Padmanagamangalam village, Srivaikuntam Taluk, Thoothukudi District by Raja Jeba Doss**

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the eight proposals were considered by the Standing Committee in its 49th meeting held on 13th June 2018 and decided to request the State Government to verify the project locations *vis-a-vis* the proposed ESZ of North Cauvery Wildlife / Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary and furnish the report to the Ministry for further consideration.

The State Government vide its letter dated 30/07/2018 stated that the project sites falls away from the boundary of proposed ESZs of North Cauvery Wildlife / Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposals along with the conditions and mitigation measures of the State Chief Wildlife Warden and subject to the compliance of Supreme Court order dated 04.08.2006 in Writ Petition no. 202/1995 regarding prohibition of mining within one km of the Protected Areas.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

49.4.2.19 Proposal for development of Industrial Estate in Krishnagiri District by GMR Krishnagiri SEZ Ltd located at 0.58 km from the North Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal for development of industrial estate was considered by the Standing Committee in its 49th meeting held on 13th June 2018 and decided to request the State Government to verify the project locations *vis-a-vis* the proposed ESZ of North Cauvery Wildlife and furnish the report to the Ministry for further consideration.

The State Government vide its letter dated 30/07/2018 stated that the project sites falls away from the boundary of proposed ESZs of North Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposals along with the conditions and mitigation measures of the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

AGENDA ITEM No. 3

50.3.1 AGENDA ITEMS OF ANDHRA PRADESH

50.3.1.1 Diversion of 6.34 ha of forestland in Kancherlamoram RF & Kanchelamoram Extn RF of Proddatur (WL) Division for erection of 220 KV DC line from 400 KV Talamanchipatnam SS to 220 KV SS Porumamilla

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 6.34 ha of forestland from Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve for the erection of 220 KV DC transmission line from 400 KV Talamanchipatnam SS to 220 KV SS Porumamilla. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) Wildlife Mitigation Plan is proposed with an amount of Rs.100 lakh for habitat improvement, protection, prevention of man-animal conflict and publicity extension wildlife awareness activities in the tiger corridor area of Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve and in the vicinity of Sri Lankamalleswara WLS.
- (2) The User Agency shall deposit the money into Biodiversity Conservation Society of Andhra Pradesh Account.
- (3) Erection of sign boards by the User Agency to create awareness of wildlife conservation.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 13/05/2018.

The NTCA has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

Mandatory safeguards during designing the transmission line

1. All the existing parallel power lines should be merged into a single installation. Insulated cables should be used on the proposed transmission line passing through the forest lands and important wildlife areas across its entire length in between Talamanchipatnam and Porumamilla; so as to avoid hindrance to avifauna and other arboreal species.
2. As assessment of impact of the windmills and its associated power lines on the critically endangered Jerdon's Courser whose only global population resides in this region is required, if not already done. Ecological impacts of the wind mills coming near Porumamilla town should be evaluated by an independent agency, preferably the BNHS since they have long-term information of the Jerdon's Courser and other avifauna in the region. Laying of the proposed transmission line should be initiated only after that. Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh State should evaluate and monitor this.
3. All power lines within 5 km of forest and scrub patches and important wildlife areas across its entire length in between Talamanchipatnam and Porumamilla will be marked with bird diverters (with solar powered night flashers) spaced at 10m intervals⁸ (Figure 3).
4. In areas without insulated cable, APTRANSCO shall maintain >1.5 m spacing (larger than the wrist-to-wrist or head-to-foot distance of a bird) between energized components and grounded hardware^{7,8}.
5. In compliance with MoEFCC's guidelines, no clearance of vegetation shall be allowed for open areas with sparse vegetation (such as scrublands, grasslands, wetlands etc.). A 5.8 m vertical clearance above ground, 2.5 m vertical clearance from the vegetation and 1.2 m horizontal clearance from the vegetation could be permitted in other areas of the transmission line. These dimensions are based on clearance requirements for powerlines under Rules 77, 79 and 80, read with Rule 82A(3) in the Indian Electricity Rules 1956 (as amended up to 25 November 2000) and local forest officials should monitor strict implementation of this on ground.
6. Width of the right of the way for the transmission line on forest land should not be over 35 m (*vide* MoEFCC Guidelines). The alignment of the powerline should be made such that minimum numbers of trees are felled. Any felling/pollarding/pruning of trees for allowing electrical clearance/maintenance will be done with the permission of the local DFO. Only those trees that are of sufficient height to compromise the requirements of minimal vertical and horizontal clearance from the conductor wires at maximum sag point should be lopped.
7. As far as possible vegetation clearing along the stretches of transmission corridor passing through forested areas may be minimized or avoided by increasing the height of tower structures to maintain safe vertical clearance over natural vegetation to prevent disruption of vegetation or forest continuity.

8. The user agency should adhere to the guidelines issued by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its judgement in Janajagarithi Samiti versus Union of India and Others (Appeal No.10 of 2012) related to transmission line passing through the forest in Western Ghats [Annexure 1].
9. Forest Clearance Division of MoEFCC in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority had also issued guidelines pertaining to transmission lines passing through the forests (*vide* F.No.7-25/2012-FC dated 5th May, 2014). The user agency should follow this guideline while constructing the powerline [Annexure 2].
10. Periodic clearing of vegetation along the powerline may bring up invasive species. The plantation of native, palatable species should be actively promoted by the user agency in collaboration with the Forest Department below the powerline. This will not only prevent growth of invasive unpalatable species like but also will provide excellent food for wild ungulates in form of its leaves and fruits.
11. APTRANSCO should also mitigate the existing transmission line (765 KV and 400 KV) by putting insulated cables, marking with reflectors wherever they are passing through forest lands and important wildlife areas.

Mandatory safeguards during construction phase

- (a) No construction/maintenance work shall be permitted between 6 PM to 6 AM. Labor camps should be at least 1 km away from the boundaries of forest land along the entire length of the proposed transmission line.
- (b) No construction material (including soil, stones etc.) should be collected from the forest. The topsoil to a depth of 30 cm should be first gathered, piled aside and covered with a tarpaulin or suitable other material. The topsoil should be re-spread as early as possible over the disturbed or excavated area after completion of work to a depth of 30 cm. Construction debris should not be dumped inside the forest areas and they should be transported by the user agency to suitable dumping sites outside the forest.
- (c) In compliance with MoEFCCs guidelines, construction of new approach/access route will require prior approval under Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

Post-construction mandatory safeguards

- (d) The user agency shall deposit 5% of the total project cost (Rs.9,000 lakhs) to Biodiversity Society of Andhra Pradesh (BIOSAP). Andhra Pradesh Forest Department should utilize this money for eco-restoration, prey augmentation, reducing public dependence on forests and promoting traditional local livelihoods in the corridor landscape.

- (e) The user agency may decommission other power transmission and distribution facilities; preferably in the area or in other forested parts of the state; which have become obsolete, defunct or damaged. Decommissioning activities may include demolition and removal of the installed infrastructure (e.g., transmission towers, substations, aboveground and underground utilities and access/approach road decommissioning) and reclamation of the project site, including ground stabilization and re-vegetation with native species typical to the natural vegetation of the area. Obsolete lines and infrastructure, and powerlines that require extensive and costly annual clearing of vegetation, shall be prioritized for decommissioning.
- (f) Andhra Pradesh Forest Department should consider future proposal on any linear infrastructure in this corridor landscape very carefully since further loss of habitat might constrict the pinch points and make the corridor nonfunctional.
- (g) Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh State should constitute a monitoring committee comprising of members from local forest officials, MoEFCC and NTCA regional offices and user agency to oversee the implementation of the project in adherence to the mitigation measures suggested herein and/or by state forest department.

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

In addition to the condition imposed by the state CWLW and NTCA the project proponent shall finalize the mitigation measures in consultation with the State CWLW on the basis of WII guidelines named “*Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*” prior to start of the work of the project and the mitigation measures so finalized shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.1.2 Diversion of 27.744 ha forestland in Kancherlamorum RF, Compt No.156 of Gangayapalli Beat Range and in Kancherlamoram Extn R.F. Compt No.265 & 266 of Jangamrajupalli Beat of Badvel Range for erecting of 765 KV double circuit transmission line from Chilakaluripeta to Kadapa

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 27.744 ha of forestland from Nagarjunasagar-Srisaïlam Tiger Reserve for the erection of 765 KV double circuit transmission line from Chilakaluripeta to Kadapa. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) Wildlife Mitigation Plan is proposed with an amount of Rs.3.00 crore for habitat improvement, protection, prevention of man-animal conflict and publicity extension wildlife awareness activities in the tiger corridor area of Nagarjunasagar – Srisaïlam Tiger Reserve (NSTR) and in the vicinity of Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary
- (2) The User Agency shall deposit the money into Biodiversity Conservation Society of Andhra Pradesh Account.
- (3) Erection of sign boards by the User Agency to create awareness of wildlife conservation.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 13/05/2018.

The NTCA has recommended the proposal with the following conditions and mitigation measures

1. The vegetation observed at the proposed diversion site is mainly of scrub jungle type. The user agency should not undertake too much vegetation clearing under the transmission lines since the dispersing wildlife may start avoiding the cleared area due to excessive clearing/interventions.
2. Further, considering the factors like strategic location of the Sanctuary, presence of IBA and other water bodies in the adjoining landscape, there are high chances of critically endangered bird species like Jordon's Courser and other migratory birds may collide with high power transmission lines. In order to prevent the instances of collision of critically endangered Jordon's Courser and migratory birds with transmission lines, it is suggested the user agency should sue line marker devices along the entire length of transmission line to improve the visibility of earth wires. These marker devices available in a variety of color and are visible to birds from a long distance. The different types of marker devices available are spheres, swinging plates, spiral vibration dampers, strips, flight diverters, bird flappers, ribbons, tapes, flags and crossed bands.
3. Further, it is suggested the line markers should be as large as possible to enhance their visibility. The spacing/distance between the line markers should not be more than 5 to 10 meter. The marker color selection should be such that it contrasts with the background color.
4. These bird collision reducing interventions may be proposed for all transmission line projects (even outside the PA/forest areas) of Andhra Pradesh.
5. Work should be finished within specified time of the day (9 AM – 5PM) and no camping of labors inside Reserve Forest /WLS beyond this time frame should be allowed. Local beat officer(s) and

forester(s) should be made responsible for monitoring the power transmission tower & cable work strictly on daily basis and report the progress to the District Forest Officer.

6. As prescribed by the chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh, the agency shall deposit the funds required for implementation of wildlife Mitigation Plan with the Biodiversity Conservation Society for Andhra Pradesh (BIOSAP). Further, the user agency shall also abide by other terms & conditions prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh and other competent authorities.

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

In addition to the condition imposed by the state CWLW and NTCA the project proponent shall finalize the mitigation measures in consultation with state CWLW on the basis of WII guidelines named “Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife” prior to start of the work of the project and the mitigation measures so finalised shall be implemented at the project cost .

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.2 AGENDA ITEMS OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

50.3.2.1 Diversion of 2.12 ha of forestland situated within Sessa Orchid Sanctuary for Army Transit Camp and Convoy Ground

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 2.12 ha of forestland from Sessa Orchid Sanctuary for the construction of army transit camp and convoy ground.

The area is required by the Indian Army for administration and operation purposes. The area is already in possession of the army with effect from 18th January 1964 and being used since then. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal without imposing conditions.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its 2nd meeting held on 26/04/ 2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal. The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.2.2 Diversion of 3.07 ha of forestland for the construction of Roing – Hunli Road (Green Field Alignamnet) section km 24.64 to km 47.00 and km 62.97 to km 74.01 falling within draft ESZ of Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 3.07 ha of forestland for the construction of road from Roing to Hunli in the draft notified ESZ of Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) Construction of speed breakers in vulnerable places especially in wildlife corridors wherever necessary.
- (2) Erection of glow sign boards / signage at regular intervals as may be required.
- (3) Preparation of Wildlife Conservation Plan and its implementation at project cost.
- (4) No use of pressure horn.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its 2nd meeting held on 26/04/ 2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

In addition to the condition imposed by the state CWLW the project proponent shall finalise the mitigation measures and animal passage plan in consultation with state CWLW on the basis of WII guidelines named “Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife” prior to start of the work of the project and the mitigation measures / animal passage plan so finalised shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.3 AGENDA ITEMS OF ASSAM

50.3.3.1 Proposal for diversion of 208.807 ha of forestland for construction of 400 KV (Quad) Jigmelling – Alipurduar transmission line

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 208.807 ha of forestland from Manas Tiger Reserve for the erection of 400 KV transmission line from Jigmelling to Alipurduar. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) Towers shall be fenced with elephant proof fence maintained properly
- (2) The conductors shall be sufficiently high to avoid chances of any accident due to sagging of conductors and such guidelines in this regard.
- (3) The user agency shall maintain and monitor the line passing through the tiger reserve area regularly jointly with the Forest Department and incur such expenditures as and when required.
- (4) Necessary retrofitting measures as and when required in the interest of wild animal movement and protection shall be done by the user agency in future.
- (5) The user agency shall provide sufficient funds to the Wildlife Department as per the guidelines from NBWL.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its 10th meeting held on 22/02/ 2018.

The NTCA recommended the proposal with following conditions:

1. Since the proposed line is a High Voltage Transmission line, it is recommended that the stretch from Tower No. 4 to 6 having dense forest should be fenced around to prevent wild elephants from coming in contact with Towers. In the above stretch, the conductors should be erected at sufficient height to avoid chances of any accident due to sagging. The Power Grid Corporation shall maintain the line after commissioning to avoid any accident to specially the wild elephants moving through the areas.
2. Insulated cables should be used in the stretch of proposed transmission line passing through the forest and important wildlife areas across its entire length. All power lines within 5 km of forest and scrub patches and important wildlife areas across its entire length will be marked with bird diverters (with solar powered night flashers) spaced at 10 m intervals.
3. In areas without insulated cable, Power Grid shall maintain > 1.5m spacing (larger than wrist-to-wrist or head-to- foot distance of a bird) between energized components and grounded hardware. In compliance with MOEFCC,s guidelines, no clearance of vegetation shall be allowed for open areas

with sparse vegetation (such as scrublands, grasslands, wetlands, wetlands etc.), A 5.8 m vertical clearance areas of the transmission and 1.2 m horizontal clearance from the vegetation could be permitted in other areas of the transmission line. These dimensions are based on clearance requirements for power lines under Rules 77,79, and 80 read with Rule 82 A (3) in the Indian electricity Rules 1956 (as amended up to 20 November 2000) and local forest officials should monitor strict implementation of this on ground.

4. The width of the right of way for the transmission line on forest land should not be over 35 m. The alignment of the Power line should be made such that minimum numbers of trees are felled. Any felling/ pollarding/ pruning of trees for allowing electrical clearance/ maintenance will be done with the permission of the local DFO. Only those trees that are of sufficient height to compromise the requirements of minimal vertical and horizontal clearance from the conductor wires at maximum sag point should be lopped.
5. The user agency should adhere to the guidelines issued by Hon'ble National Green tribunal in its judgments in Janajagarithi Samiti versus Union of India and Others (Appeal No.10 of 2012) related to transmission line passing through the forest in Western Ghats. Forest Clearance Division, MoEF&CC in consultation with Central Electricity Authority had also issued guidelines pertaining to transmission lines passing through the forests. The User agency should follow these guidelines while construction the Power line.
6. Periodic clearing of vegetation along the power line may bring up invasive species. The plantation of native, palatable species should be actively promoted by the user agency in collaboration with the Forest Department below the Power line. This will not only prevent growth of invasive unpalatable species like but also will provide excellent forage for wild ungulates in from of its leaves and fruits. No construction/ maintenance work shall be permitted between 6 PM to 7 AM. Labour camps should be at least 1 km away from the boundaries of forest land along the entire of the proposed transmission line. In compliance with MoEFCC's guidelines, construction of new approach/ access route will require prior approval under Forest Conservation Act, 1980.
7. The user agency shall deposit 5% of the total project cost to the Manas Tiger Reserve Management which should utilize this money for eco- restoration, prey augmentation, reducing public dependence on forests and promoting traditional local livelihoods in the landscape. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam should constitute a monitoring committee comprising of members from local forest officials, MoEF &CC and NTCA regional office and user agency to oversee the implementation of the project in adherence to the mitigation measures suggested herein and / or by State Forest Department.

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

In addition to the condition imposed by the state CWLW the project proponent shall finalize the mitigation measures in consultation with state CWLW on the basis of WII guidelines named “Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife” prior to start of the work of the project and the mitigation measures so finalized shall be implemented at the project cost .

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.4 AGENDA ITEMS OF DELHI

50.3.4.1 Construction of CBI Residential Complex

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the construction of CBI residential complex in the ESZ of Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the subject to deposit of 5% of project fund for soil moisture conservation works and improvement of wildlife habitat in the sanctuary in larger interest of wildlife habitat conservation. The area falling under ridge / morphological ridge of 0.50 ha should be brought under dense plantation of indigenous species in supervision of the Department of Forest & wildlife, Government of NCT of Delhi by a professional agency / group to avoid noise and air pollution and maintenance of water table. No soil / Badarpur excavation is permitted in ridge / morphological ridge area contiguous to the project site. Curtains / PVC rolls should be raised to restrict the speed of dust pollution in the surroundings.

The matter was before the Hon’ble Supreme Court and CEC was asked by the court to submit their report. CEC in its report dated 02.08.2018 had recommended for the construction of CBI residential complex. Hon’ble Supreme Court in its order dated 29.08.2018 in writ petition no. 202/1995 has accepted the recommendations of CEC.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.5 AGENDA ITEMS OF JHARKHAND

50.3.5.1 Construction of Koderma detour (PPP Mode) km 148.210 to km 157.500 in Hazaribagh District under Dankuni to Sonnagar Section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor Project

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 82.8 ha of forestland from Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary for the construction of Koderma detour km 148.210 to km 157.500 in Hazaribagh District. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) Sufficient number of under / over passes shall be constructed as per the site requirement at regular intervals in complete stretch of sanctuary area to facilitate the movement of wildlife across the track.
- (2) Water courses inside the sanctuary shall not be disturbed.
- (3) Other suitable mitigation measures may be provided based on the impact assessment study of WII
- (4) Fund for the site specific wildlife management plan shall be provided by user agency.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 23/05/2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

However, prior to granting permission by the State Government for starting the work of project a detailed mitigation plan/ animal passage plan as suggested by the state CWLW shall be prepared, on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*, by the project proponent in consultation with state CWLW and same shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.6 AGENDA ITEMS OF KARNATAKA

50.3.6.1 Re-notifying the boundaries of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary without reducing the area and extent

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the re-notification / rationalization of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary with an area of 395.608 sq.km excluding ~300 sq.km from the inadvertent area of 695.608 sq.km. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal without imposing conditions.

On being asked to explain the justification for rationalization of the wildlife sanctuary boundaries the representative of the state CWLW stated that an area of more than 300 Sq Km comprising of townships, villages and agricultural lands was included inadvertently in the notification of the sanctuary in 1974 and therefore the state government has requested to exclude these area from WLS.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 31/08/2016.

Dr H S Singh, Member stated that there should be a committee for the boundary alteration to examine the issues of Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal in principal subject to the conditions that the State Government will submit the draft notification to the MoEF&CC clearly specifying the revised boundaries prepared by the committee constituted by the State Government for the alteration of boundaries giving the justification for addition or deletion of the area.

50.3.7 AGENDA ITEMS OF MADHYA PRADESH

50.3.7.1 Construction of Bineka to Borpani 8.55 km cement concrete road in Ratapni Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 5.6625 ha of forestland from Ratapni Wildlife Sanctuary for the construction and upgradation of cement concrete road of 8.55 km from Bineka to Borpani. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the conditions of making bridge / underpasses, speed breakers, caution marks, signboard by the user agency, maximum speed limit in the PA for wildlife protection as mentioned by the PA in-charge officer and all the construction material will be brought from outside the sanctuary.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden stated that 5% of the proportionate cost of the project will be deposited by the User Agency for wildlife conservation and mitigation works of Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its 15th meeting held on 10/07/2017.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

However, prior to granting permission by the state government for starting the work of project a detailed mitigation plan / animal passage plan as recommended by the state CWLW shall be prepared, on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*, by the project proponent in consultation with state CWLW and same shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.7.2 Construction of Gaganwada to Kertoli 5.3 km road in Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 3.975 ha of forestland from Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary for the construction and upgradation of cement concrete road of 5.3 km from Gaganwada to Kertoli. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the conditions of making bridge / underpasses, speed breakers, caution marks, signboard by the user agency, maximum speed limit in the PA for wildlife protection as mentioned by the PA in-charge officer and all the construction material will be brought from outside the sanctuary.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden stated that 5% of the proportionate cost of the project will be deposited by the User Agency for wildlife conservation and mitigation works of Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its 15th meeting held on 10/07/2017.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

However, prior to granting permission by the state government for starting the work of project a detailed mitigation plan / animal passage plan as suggested by the state CWLW shall be prepared, on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*, by the project proponent in consultation with state CWLW and same shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.8 AGENDA ITEMS OF MAHARASHTRA

50.3.8.1 Proposal for the construction of Nagpur – Mumbai Super Expressway Package-II, District Thane (Konkan Revenue Division) border by MSRDC

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the construction of expressway from Nagpur to Mumbai, District Thane (Konkan Revenue Division) falling outside of Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) In the deemed ESZ, the project authority shall put signages mentioning the prohibition on uses of horns.
- (2) Adequate number of underpasses for the animals shall be provided in the forest area in consultation with the forest Department and Wildlife Wing.
- (3) As decided in the 8th meeting of wildlife held on 20th February 2014 the project proponent shall deposit 2% of the total cost of the project for wildlife conservation measures in Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining forests.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 31/01/2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

However, prior to granting permission by the state government for starting the work of project a detailed mitigation plan / animal passage plan as recommended by the state CWLW shall be prepared, on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*, by the project proponent in consultation with state CWLW and same shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.8.2 Proposal for the construction of Nagpur – Mumbai Super Expressway Package-II, District Washim (Amravati Revenue Division) border by MSRDC

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the construction of super expressway from Nagpur to Mumbai, District Washim (Amravati Revenue Division) falling outside of Katepurna Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) In the deemed ESZ, the project authority shall put signages mentioning the prohibition on uses of horns.
- (2) The proposed project would be fenced from both sides and hence there will be no danger to wildlife because of movement of vehicles.
- (3) Underpasses shall be constructed at the places suggested by the Field Director, Melghat Tiger Reserve in consultation with the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- (4) As decided in the 8th meeting of wildlife held on 20th February 2014 the project proponent shall deposit 2% of the cost of the 29.60 km of the proposed project which passes through the deemed ESZ should be deposited with the Melghat Tiger Conservation Foundation for the Habitat Improvement of the Katepurna Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining forests.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 31/01/2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

However, prior to granting permission by the state government for starting the work of project a detailed mitigation plan / animal passage plan as recommended by the state CWLW shall be prepared, on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*, by the project proponent in consultation with state CWLW and same shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.8.3 Proposal for the construction of Nagpur – Mumbai Super Expressway Package-II, District Wardha / Amravati border by MSRDC

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the construction of super expressway from Nagpur to Mumbai, District Wardha / Amravati falling outside of Karanja – Sohul Black-Buck Sanctuary. He added that the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) Underpasses shall be constructed at the places suggested by the Forest Department to facilitate movement of wild animals, besides the existing minor bridges, major bridges, culverts, etc.
- (2) As decided in the 8th meeting of wildlife held on 20th February 2014 the project proponent shall deposit 2% of the cost of the 29.15 km of the proposed project which passes through the deemed ESZ should be deposited with the Melghat Tiger Conservation Foundation for the Habitat Improvement of the Karanja –Sohul Black – Buck Sanctuary and adjoining forests.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 31/01/2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

However, prior to granting permission by the state government for starting the work of project a detailed mitigation plan/ animal passage plan as recommended by the state CWLW shall be prepared, on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*, by the project proponent in consultation with state CWLW and same shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.8.3 Proposal of commercial and residential project by Viva holdings is situated on plot bearing New Survey no.54, 62, 63, 78 to 83 & 192, 193 at village More & Virar, Tal. Vasai, Dist. Palghar, Maharashtra

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the project is for the construction of residential and commercial complexes in the private land located at 5.50 km away from the boundary of proposed ESZ of Tungareswar Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) The proponent assures and abides to comply with the conditions laid down by MoEF for Environmental Clearance.
- (2) Natural growing trees which may be earmarked for retention during EIA exercise of wildlife species like Wad (*Ficus benghalensis*), Pair, Mango, Karanj & other fruit bearing trees shall be retained from list of the trees enumerated in EIA report as submitted by project proponent.
- (3) The project on the condition that excavated material at the time of construction will not be thrown in sea, bay of sea and natural drainage.
- (4) The project proponent will provide Rs.2% of the project cost (i.e. Rs.320.00 Crore) to be deposited with Chief Conservator of Forest & Director, Sanjay Gandhi NP, Borivali for habitat development, protection and conservation of Sanjay Gandhi NP, Borivali and Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in accordance with the approved management plan.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 05/04/2016.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife as it is outside the proposed ESZ of Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary. Further the Standing Committee reiterated that the project proponents should deposit 2% of total project cost for wildlife conservation of Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining forests.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.9 AGENDA ITEMS OF MANIPUR

50.3.9.1 Construction and up-gradation of existing Ukhrul – Tolloi Tadubi Section of NH-102 A (115 km) of districts Ukhrul and Senapati

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 26.154 ha of forestland inside the deemed ESZ of Shirui National Park, located at 5.58 km distance from the boundary of the Shirui National Park for construction and up-gradation of existing road Ukhrul – Tollo – Tadubi Section of NH-102 A (115 km) of districts Ukhrul and Senapati. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden recommended proposal with the following conditions:

- (1) The status of the sanctuary shall remain unchanged.

- (2) Compensatory of afforestation shall be taken up in degraded forests as proposed by DFO, Eastern Forest Division, Ukhrul with 10 years maintenance preferably in Eastern Forest Division, Ukhrul at the cost to be borne by the user agency.
- (3) As the proposed area falls within the ESZ, the user agency shall pay the NPV which shall be the amount fixed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and worked out by the DFO / Eastern Forest Division, Ukhrul based on the forest type, eco-class and site quality.
- (4) To mitigate the adverse impact of the project, an impact mitigation and wildlife management plan has been proposed at cost of Rs. 204.02 lakh. The cost will be borne by the user agency.
- (5) Avenue plantation preferably with local species along the national highway including the raising of nursery, creation of green belt between the national park and the highway and on the road median shall be taken up at the cost be borne by the user agency in consultation with the DFO / Wildlife or DFO / Eastern Forest Division.
- (6) (a) The user agency shall bear the cost of logging and transportation of the felled trees as per estimates of DFO/Eastern Forest Division and DFO/Wildlife. Bare minimum of number of trees which are strictly essential, will be felled for the execution of the project under strict supervision of DFO/Eastern Forest Division and DFO/Wildlife; (b) the felled trees shall be distributed to forest bonafide villagers of the proposed areas in consultation with DFO/ Eastern Forest Division and DFO/Wildlife in the manner as provided u/s 29 Of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (7) All the non-timber forest produces (NTEPs) removed during execution of the project shall be made available to the local people for their bonafide uses on the equitable basis.
- (8) At least 6 (six) corridors for the movement of wildlife of minimum 6m width are to be provided by the user agency. The corridors shall be well demarcated on the highway by the user agency with caution signages.
- (9) The user agency shall not take any such activity which contravenes wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 or rules made therein.
- (10) Speed breakers near corridors, turnings and blind turnings shall be provided at on the highway. Speed breakers or series of smaller speed breakers at a distance of every 2 (two) km in between particularly near corridors as per the specifications of WII, Dehradun.
- (11) Caution sign boards warnings wildlife crossings shall be installed by the user agency at all necessary points along the highways in consultation with DFO/Wildlife.
- (12) Since the terrain is hilly with loose soil texture, it is necessary to undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures to make slopes stable, check soil erosion and landslides; (b) the user agency shall make necessary provisions in their project cost and construct retaining walls, breast

walls, Gabion structures, etc. at all necessary locations (both hill side and valley side) in consultation with CRRI (Central Road Research Institute) and the State Forest Department.

- (13) The user agency shall also construct storm drains all along the proposed roads with culverts at appropriate locations at their cost. The user agency shall make necessary provisions in their project cost accordingly. They shall not take up such construction, which diverts, stops or enhances flow of the water into or outside of the national park.
- (14) Cost for demarcation of the diverted forestland and installation of boundary pillars shall be borne by the user agency.
- (15) The user agency shall ensure that there is no damage to surrounding forests, environment, wildlife, natural resources like water bodies and other public properties.
- (16) The user agency and the district administration will ensure that no resettlement takes place on forestland which would eventually results in encroachment,
- (17) Heavy machines and explosives shall not be used except under unavoidable circumstances and with the prior permissions on the DFO/Wildlife or DFO/Eastern Forest Division.
- (18) The user agency shall supply fuel wood, preferably alternate fuel to the laborers working at the site to avoid damage / felling of the trees. No camp-fires or pitching of tents for construction staff or engineers shall be allowed.
- (19) The muck / debris generated in the earth cutting shall be disposed off at the designated sites and in no case the muck / debris shall be allowed to roll down the hill slopes.
- (20) Wherever possible and technically feasible, the user agency shall undertake strip plantation on both sides of the national highways.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

However, prior to granting permission by the state government for starting the work of project a detailed mitigation plan / animal passage plan as recommended by the state CWLW shall be prepared, on the basis of WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife*, by the project proponent in consultation with state CWLW and same shall be implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.10 AGENDA ITEMS OF TAMIL NADU

50.3.10.1 Cyclone – Ockhi – Kanyakumari district – Damage caused in forest areas of Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary- Approval of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for removal of about 10,000 number of fallen trees damaged, uprooted and wind fallen due to Ockhi Cyclone in Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden recommended proposal without imposing conditions and the SBWL has also recommended this proposal in its meeting on 23rd January 2018.

He also mentioned that the Hon'ble the Supreme Court vide its order dated 09.05.2002 in its interim order stated that

“No permission under Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 should be granted without getting the approval of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife”

Further the IGF(WL) also stated that the Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 stipulates that

“Provided that where the forest produce removed from the PA, the same may be used for the meeting the needs of the people living near the sanctuary and shall be used for any commercial purpose”

The Secretary, MoEF&CC stated that the forest produce should be used for the benefit of local people and the income generated from auction be utilized for the conservation of protected areas.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal with the condition that the forest produce be used for the benefit of local people and the income generated be shall be utilized exclusively for the conservation of Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining forests. The state government shall prepare Habitat improvement plan, Wildlife conservation plan, and human wildlife conflict mitigation plan which shall be implemented simultaneously from the above generated income.

A supervised removal of the fallen trees and habitat improvement of the area denuded due to such removal should be done in a phased manner so as to keep the anthropogenic disturbance at minimum level.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.11 AGENDA ITEMS OF UTTARAKHAND

50.3.11.1 Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project Naranu reconstruction of bridge in district Uttarakashi, Block Mori, Uttarakhand

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 0.1164 ha of forestland from Govind Pashu Vihar National Park for reconstruction of bridge in Block Mori of District Uttarakashi. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden recommended proposal without imposing conditions.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15/06/2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal.

50.3.11.2 Construction of bridle road from Bheembali to Rambara (Chainage 81.325 to 82.825) as link road to provide connectivity to Shri Kedarnath Dham

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 0.900 ha of forestland from Kedarnath Musk Deer Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of road from Bheembali to Rambara). He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden recommended proposal without imposing conditions.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15/06/ 2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that mitigation measures / animal passage plan will be prepared in consultation with CWLW based on the WII guidelines named *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife* and implemented at the project cost.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.11.3 Establishment of boarder outpost in Tripani general area

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the diversion of 1.62 ha of forestland from Gangotri National Park for construction and establishment of boarder outpost in Tripani general area. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden recommended proposal subject to the conditions that

- (1) No quarrying of stone shall be in the National Park.
- (2) The debris in the national park should be deposited in the area in consultation with the park officials and not thrown in the areas with steep slopes.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15/06/ 2018.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the conditions imposed by the State CWLW.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.12 AGENDA ITEMS OF UTTAR PRADESH

50.3.12.1 Proposal for setting up the Retail Outlet, proposed by Indian oil Corporation Ltd, Noida Division, along with NH-24 (Hapur – Moradabad) at private land Plot No.2528/2529, village Garh Bangar, Tehsil Garh Mukteshwar, District Hapur located near the boundary of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the setting up the retail outlet in the private land, Plot No.2528/2529 at village Garh Bangar, Tehsil Garh Mukteshwar, District Hapur located in the draft notified ESZ of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden recommended proposal imposing following conditions:

- (1) Protection and mitigation measures for wildlife should be ensured as per standard practice in such cases.
- (2) Land shall not be used for any other purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- (3) Rules and regulation of the concerned departments for establishing the project shall be complied with.

- (4) The instructions/orders passed by the State Govt./ Central Govt. and the directions passed by Hon'ble High Court/Supreme Court from time to time regarding such project shall be complied with.
- (5) User agency will ensure that the project personnel engaged in the project shall observe the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 & Rules made thereafter.
- (6) Construction waste materials will not be thrown inside the sanctuary area or movement corridor of wildlife.
- (7) User agency will take all precautions including technical measures to contain the noise and air pollution, protection from fire due to construction activities.
- (8) The project proponent shall obtain consent to establish and to operate from U.P. Pollution Control Board and effectively implement all the conditions stipulated therein.
- (9) Two GPS sets shall be provided for the survey and demarcation of the sanctuary boundaries to the Bijnor forest division.
- (10) No labour camp shall be established in the sanctuary/forest area or other sensitive area.

The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 26/05/ 2015.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal along with the conditions and the wildlife mitigation measures stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

50.3.12.2 De-notification of Kachhua Wildlife Sanctuary from 940 km to 970 km

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for the de-notification of Kachhua Wildlife Sanctuary having an area of 7 km of mid stream of river Ganga from both the banks notified vide no. 1485/14-4-2008-823 dated 21-03-2009 and to notify upstream stretch of 30 km (from 940 km to 970 km) stretch of river Ganga near Newada.

Proposal for denotification of the existing sanctuary and notification of new stretch of the river as sanctuary is based on the study "*Assessment of the wildlife values of the Ganga River from Bijnor to Ballia including turtle wild life sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh*" conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun on the request of the UP State Government. The report was submitted to the State Government vide WII no. WII/SAH-TWS-UP/2018 dated 6th July 2018.

While submitting the justification for the proposal for de-notification of the existing Kachua Wildlife Sanctuary the state government highlights the following findings of the WII study:

“Only five freshwater turtle species were encountered in TWS out of the 13 species reported from the Ganga river. Capture rates for turtle species were low in the TWS, indicating low abundance of turtles during the sampling period and high anthropogenic disturbance within TWS.”

The State Government also highlights the following conclusion of the study about efficacy of Kacchua wildlife Sanctuary

“3.1.5 very low encounter rate of turtles in TWS indicate high human disturbance leading to habitat alteration within a very small Protected Area. Sites along the TWS in left bank are seen to have least suitable habitat for turtles with high anthropogenic presence such as cemented ghats, intense ferry and boat activity, pollution and human presence along the river. The sand bar in the right bank of the sanctuary though is an excellent habitat for turtles and breeding birds, is also under severe anthropogenic pressure. Higher diversity and catch of fish species from the TWS is indicative of restriction on fishing in the sanctuary”

While pointing to the findings of the study where Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary receives the score of 1(one) in overall aquatic habitat quality the State Government concludes that

“it is clear from the above that 7 km stretch was observed to have high anthropogenic disturbance throughout the day and night due to motor boat and tourist activities in certain areas of the sanctuary and is ranked as ‘No habitat-1’. This shows that Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary has been classified into no habitat class. Hence, due to high human disturbance leading to habitat alterations within a very small protected area, Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary is found to have least suitable habitat for turtles with high anthropogenic disturbance and aforesaid area is no longer is of adequate ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, natural or zoological significance, for the purpose of protecting, propagating or developing wildlife or its environment”

While justifying their intention for notification of upstream stretch of 30 km (from 940 km to 970 km) stretch of river Ganga near Newada in lieu of existing Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary the state government refers to following conclusion of the WII report regarding habitat suitability for the purpose of finalizing conservation priority areas in river Ganga.

“10. Based on combined score the stretch from downstream Newada in Allahabad district to Adalpur in Mirzapur district, a total of 140 km may be considered as conservation priority area and notified as wildlife sanctuary under provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Since the ecological

characteristics and wildlife values vary along the 140 km stretch on account of anthropogenic pressure, harmonization for excluding some areas having high anthropogenic pressures on account of intense cultural religious uses may be required and to be done by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department.”

For the purpose of identifying suitable stretch for declaring as Wildlife Sanctuary from the stretch of 140 km suggested by the WII study the state government has analyzed the cumulative score of stretches and concluded that cumulative score of 3 stretches (940-950, 950-960 and 960-970) comes out to be 10.36, which is highest in all the stretches. Accordingly state government concludes that

“considering the high conservation suitability of this particular stretch of 30 km near Newada near Allahabad (940-970 km), it is considered appropriate to notify it as a Wildlife Sanctuary under the provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for conservation of turtles and other aquatic fauna. This would sufficiently compensate/mitigate the existing Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary, which is only 7 km stretch length, while the aforesaid area being proposed as sanctuary would cover 30 km length in an areas which is more than 4 times and of much higher conservation value as per WII report.”

This proposal was discussed in the State Board for Wildlife of Uttar Pradesh in its meeting on 30th August 2018.

The board while seeking information about the efforts being made for turtle conservation, noted the following conclusion of the WII study “.....As evident from the assessment, the creation of protected areas does help in species conservation, along the Ganga river. However, the area should be large covering diverse habitat type and minimal threats.”

The SBWL recommended the proposal of de-notification of Kacchua wildlife sanctuary along with compensatory/mitigation measures as per details below.

- (1) Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary, Varanasi was found to be very low on the basis of different parameters for suitability. Hence the proposal for de-notification may be forwarded to MoEF&CC for approval of the standing committee of the NBWL and as per prevailing legal provisions the permission be obtained from CEC / Hon’ble Supreme Court.
- (2) Proposal for notification of 30 km (940 km to 970 km) stretch near Newada (Allahabad) as wild life sanctuary may be forwarded to MoEF&CC for approval of standing committee of NBWL and following action may also be taken simultaneously:
 - (a) The social Impact assessment of proposed Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary will be conducted and mitigation measures would also be adopted.

(b) Opinion of Chief Naval Hydrographer would also be obtained.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with following conditions:

- (i) Social Impact Assessment of the proposed Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary will be conducted and mitigation measures would be adopted.
- (ii) Opinion of Chief Naval Hydrographer would be obtained.

The State Government has recommended the proposal for de-notification of Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary and notification of 30 Km (940 km-970 km) stretch near Newada (Allahabad) as wild life sanctuary in view of recommendations made by SBWL, UP in its meeting dated 30.8.2018 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh along with the conditions stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden and State Board for Wildlife.

The State Government may proceed with the process of notification of proposed Wildlife Sanctuary and de-notification of existing Kacchua Wildlife Sanctuary as per the prevailing instructions and relevant provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

(Any other item with the permission of the Chair)

50.4 AGENDA ITEMS OF RAJASTHAN

50.4.1 Bhaisrodgah – Borav Water Supply Project in Mukundara National Park, Kota

The State Chief Wildlife Warden has requested the board to consider the proposal for construction of Bhaisrodgah – Borav Water Supply Project for the benefit of village people of District Kota.

The IGF(WL) stated that the said proposal is falling in Mukundara Tiger Reserve and the proposal was referred to the NTCA for their recommendations. He also stated that the NTCA has not submitted the report and therefore as per procedure the proposal was not placed before the Standing Committee. However the Standing Committee may like to take a view regarding inclusion of this agenda at this stage. The Standing Committee considered the fact that proposal is related to drinking

water supply for the welfare of villagers accepted the request of the Chief Wildlife Warden of Rajasthan to take up the proposal in the meeting.

The Committee noted that

- (1) diversion of 10.71508 ha forestland from Mukundara National Park is required for construction of Bhaisrodgah – Borav drinking water project.
- (2) The State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended proposal with following conditions:
 - (a) NBWL has approved extraction of water from the Chambal River in other drinking water project. This uptake of 2.25 MLD would also be subjected to compliance of orders of Hon'ble Supreme court in I.A.NO.1698 of 2006 dated 17.10.2008 in Nadoti Chambal Drinking Water Project as below:

“..... The project was examined by CEC. It was found that minimum flow of water observed during the last 20 years was 4.78 cusecs.....A monitoring committee consisting of the representative of Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan and Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department Will be set up to monitor and ensure that the prescribed minimum flow of water downstream of the tapping point of Chambal River will be maintained.”

In the CEC recommendation referred in above case, it has been indicated that the flow of 4.78 cusecs corresponds to a water level of 147.74 m at Mandrayal.

- (b) 5% of the proportionate cost of the project within 10 km of the boundary of Mukundra Hills National Park and Bhainsrodgarh Sanctuary will be deposited by the User Agency in the account of Rajasthan Protected Areas Conservation Society (RPACS) for wildlife conservation and mitigation works.
- (c) No work shall be done before sunrise and after sunset in the Protected Area.
- (d) No material of any kind should be extracted from the Protected Area.
- (e) No tree shall be cut during the work in the Protected Area.
- (f) There will be no labour camping within 500 m of the Protected Area boundary.
- (g) There will be no blasting within 500 m of the Protected Area boundary.
- (h) The waste material generated should be disposed outside the Protected by the User agency.
- (i) One connection for drinking water will be provided at end point village Udpuria free of cost for providing the drinking water to wild animals in the adjoining deep forest in Wildlife Kota division.
- (j) User agency will provide water at sites decided by the DCF (WL), MNP.

- (k) The user agency and project personnel will comply with the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (3) The State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 21/12/2017.

On being asked regarding delay in submission of the report the DIGF(NTCA) stated that the Site Inspection Committee report would be submitted in seven days.

Considering the fact that the proposal is related to supply of water for the welfare of villagers the Standing Committee decided to recommend the project subject to the conditions stipulated by State Chief Wildlife Warden and compliance of Hon'ble Supreme Court order in IA No. 1698 of 2003 dated 17.10.2008 and the recommendations of the NTCA.

Further the Standing Committee decided that the State Government shall grant permission of start of work only after compliance of the conditions regarding pre-construction phase of the project stipulated by the State Chief Wildlife Warden and the NTCA.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1	Dr Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Envi. Forest & Climate Change	Chairman
2	Shri C K Mishra, Secretary, MoEF&CC	Member
3	Shri M S Negi, ADGF(WL), MoEF&CC	Member Secretary
4	Dr H S Singh, Member, NBWL	Member
5	Shri R D Kamboj, Member, NBWL	Member
6	Dr V B Mathur, Director, WII Dehradun	Member
7	Shri A K Misra, PCCF(WL) & CWLW, Maharashtra	Invitee
8	Shri S B Bhalavi, DFO, Maharashtra	Invitee
9	Shri D Nalini Mohan, CWLW, Andhra Pradesh	Invitee
10	Shri G N Sinha, CWLW, Arunachal Pradesh	Invitee
11	Shri P Ringu, DCF(WL), Arunachal Pradesh	Invitee
12	Shri Koj Tasser, DFO, Arunachal Pradesh	Invitee
13	Shri Sanjay Kumar, CWLW, Jharkhand	Invitee
14	Shri Om Prakash, DFO, Jharkhand	Invitee
15	Shri D Bankhwal, CWLW, Assam	Invitee
16	Shri Dibyadhar Gogoi, CF, Assam	Invitee
17	Shri Ishwar Singh, CWLW, Delhi	Invitee
18	Shri Subhash, Melkede, CWLW, Karnataka	Invitee
19	Shri Lingappa, DCF, Karnataka	Invitee
20	Shri Bala Prasad, CWLW, Manipur	Invitee
21	Shri Shyam Singh, DFO, Manipur	Invitee
22	Dr Krishna Kumar, CWLW, Tamil Nadu	Invitee
23	Smt Renuka Kumar, Principal Secretary, Uttar Pradesh	Invitee
24	Shri S.K. Upadhyaye, CWLW, Uttar Pradesh	Invitee
25	Shri S P Yadav, APCCF, Uttar Pradesh	Invitee
26	Shri G V Reddy, CWLW, Rajasthan	Invitee
27	Shri S K Jain, APCCF, Rajasthan	Invitee
28	Shri M K Tewari, DCF, Rajasthan	Invitee
29	Dr D Dhananjay, CWLW, Uttarakhand	Invitee
30	Shri Shravan Kumar, DFO, Uttarakhand	Invitee
31	MS Nitu Lakshmi, DFO, Uttarakhand	Invitee
32	Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, IGF(WL), MoEF&CC	Invitee
33	Shri Nishant Verma, DIGF(NTCA)	Invitee
34	P Ravi, Scientist, MoEF&CC	Invitee
35	Srhi Ravi Kumar, Legal Assistant, MoEF&CC	Invitee