

भारत सरकार  
Government of India  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
राष्ट्रीय व्याघ्र संरक्षण प्राधिकरण  
National Tiger Conservation Authority  
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F.No.15-5/2019-NTCA

New Delhi, the March 28, 2019

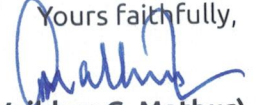
**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

Sub: Minutes of meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> National Tiger Conservation Authority

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> National Tiger Conservation Authority as approved by the Hon'ble Chairman, NTCA/MEF&CC which was held on March 8, 2019 at the Mahanadi Conference Hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi, for kind perusal and record.

Encl. As above

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Vaibhav C. Mathur)  
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F.No.15-5/2019-NTCA

To

1. All NTCA Members/Participants (as per **Annexure-1** of Minutes of the Meeting)

Copy for information to :

1. PS to Hon'ble MEF&CC
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS, MEF&CC
3. PPS to Secretary, (E,F&CC)
4. PPS to DGF & SS, MoEFF&CC
5. PS to ADG(PT) & MS(NTCA)
6. IGF/DIGF/AIGs, NTCA HQ/Regional Offices at Bengaluru/Guwahati/Nagpur



(Dr. Vaibhav C. Mathur)  
Assistant Inspector General (NTCA)

**Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)  
(Friday, the March 8, 2019, New Delhi)**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held on March 8, 2019 under Chairmanship of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Chairman NTCA in Mahanadi Conference Hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi.

2. The list of participants is at **Annexure-1**.

3. The meeting began with a round of introduction of the newly appointed NTCA members.

4. The Hon'ble MEF&CC/Chairman NTCA welcomed the participants and highlighted the experience of the new members which should aid in shaping tiger conservation policy in the country. He emphasized on the fact that India has a leadership role in Tiger Conservation across the globe which is being appreciated and at the same time being critically watched by the world.

To sustain this position he highlighted the need to step out of the routine and evolve innovative ideas to further strengthen tiger conservation in the country. The Hon'ble MEF&CC remarked that strategic thinking shall result in quicker implementation of ideas into action whose outcome should result in measurable differences from the existing scenario.

The Hon'ble Minister stated that tiger conservation is an extremely important and sensitive field of work wherein the scope for evolving new practices is immense. He expressed that tiger conservation is a matter of prestige for India, and commended officials working towards making it a success.

**5. Agenda No. 1**

The ADG(PT) & MS(NTCA) made a presentation on activities of the NTCA, role and responsibilities of Committees of the NTCA, status of the fourth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation, 2018 besides novel steps taken by the NTCA in steering tiger conservation in the country.

**6. Agenda No. 2**

Confirmation of minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NTCA.

Members present confirmed Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NTCA.

**7. Agenda No. 3**

Action taken on the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NTCA.

The ADG(PT) & MS(NTCA) briefed the Committee about the following action taken:-

- (i) As stressed by the Chairperson in meeting, "Grant-in-Aids" and budget allocated in Project Tiger allocated to NTCA has been fully utilized in 2017-18
- (ii) All SOPs and Advisories issued by the NTCA are ensured to be adhered to, by supervisory visits by Regional Offices and mechanism of Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE)
- (iii) A Committee has been constituted to give recommendations to enhance the package for voluntary relocation from Core/Critical tiger habitats of Tiger Reserves which *inter-alia* include convergence of Government Schemes. This committee has received inputs from the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) which are in process of being incorporated.
- (iv) As far as finalization of Tiger Mortality cases is concerned, at present pendency is 10% (55) of total 554 cases since 2012 to 2017.
- (v) There is already a provision of dovetailing of schemes at the state level with voluntary village relocation.



The Authority took note of the action as above.

**8. Agenda No. 4**

Approval of budget/expenditure schedules for the year 2017-18

- a) The Authority unanimously ratified the form of financial statements together with balance sheet, income and expenditure account, receipts and payment statements and Audit Report.
- b) The Authority was informed of the allocation of Rs. 1000.00 lakhs to the NTCA for the year 2018-19 and an expenditure of Rs. 887.00 lakhs incurred out of the Rs. 900.00 lakhs released to the NTCA.
- c) Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, the Authority was apprised of a cent percent utilization of Rs. 34500.00 lakhs during the F. Y. 2017-18.
- d) The Authority was informed of a utilization of an amount Rs. 29789.05 lakhs out of the Rs. 35000.00 lakhs allocated during the F. Y. 2018-19.
- e) The Authority also took note of funds released to Tiger Reserves for voluntary village rehabilitation, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger as follows:-

2017-18	15226.00 lakhs
2018-19 ( till 8.3.2019 )	10650.00 lakhs

**9. Agenda No. 5**

Delegation of powers to the Members Secretary - NTCA

- a) The Authority approved delegation of powers to the Member Secretary, (NTCA) to incur expenditure on Civil Works up to an amount of Rs. 5,00,000/- from the present limit of Rs.50,000/-.
- b) The Authority authorized the Member Secretary (NTCA) to utilize the NTCA "Grants-in-aid" fund for incurring expenditure on foreign travel by officials of the NTCA.

**10. Agenda No. 6**

Following issues were referred by NTCA Members:

- a) The Chief Wildlife Warden(CWLW), Uttar Pradesh informed that wild animal-human negative interaction had been declared a Natural Disaster in the State after due approval of the Cabinet. He also informed that the voluntary village resettlement package needs to be revised in view of the high land prices in the Terai region, keeping in view inflationary trends over a period of time.

He also apprised the Authority that the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger (CSS-PT) is considered as one of the most successful projects for conservation in the world and there is hardly any parallel to it. As per the guidelines of CSS-PT, issued in 2008, the funding support to States was provided under two categories, namely; Non-recurring: 100% and Recurring: 50%

A few years back this dispensation was changed and States were asked for a matching grant of 40%. This has adversely affected the conservation efforts, as often people welfare schemes get priority in the budget allocation at the State level & getting matching grant allocated becomes difficult. It is therefore, requested to the Authority to kindly examine it and revert back to the previous ratio of Centre and State share in the CSS-PT

- b) The Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam raised the issue of raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) on the lines of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve in the three remaining tiger reserves of Assam namely Nameri, Orang and Manas. Further, she requested the Authority to issue an advisory to declare wild animal-human negative interaction as a natural disaster on the lines of Uttar Pradesh to which the ADG (Wildlife) informed that the same had already been done.
- c) The Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra informed the Authority of the negative Budget Distribution System which has paid dividends in managing negative human tiger interactions. He apprised members that due to delays in release of funds under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger there are problems in releasing salaries to the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF), which needs to be addressed. The ADG(PT) & MS (NTCA) informed that due process has to be followed to get concurrence of the IFD in the MoEF & CC, which sometimes takes time. The CWLW, Maharashtra flagged the Standing Operating Procedures issued by the NTCA and requested to revisit them in light of recent field experiences.
- d) The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs informed that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the NTCA need to monitor status of notification of Critical Wildlife Habitats (CWH) as enshrined in the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 across States. This may be introduced as a continuing agenda till culmination of the process.
- e) The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj suggested that the Authority should explore the possibility of addressing damage due to negative human tiger interactions under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. In addition, he advised that the funding dispensation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme may be reviewed in consultation with the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.
- f) Dr. Anish Andheria, suggested that tiger corridor areas should be within the Eco-sensitive zone of tiger reserves so as to ensure their integrity. As a mitigation measure, he suggested that linear infrastructure should be constructed underground. He also raised the issue of regulating pesticide use in and around tiger reserves.

The Authority took note of the aforesaid issues for follow up.

**11. Agenda No. 7**

Any other item with the approval of the Chair.

NIL

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the members by the ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA).



## NTCA Members present

S.No.	Name	Designation
1	Dr. Harsh Vardhan	<b>Chairperson</b> , Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forests
2	P. R. Sinha	<b>Expert Member</b>
3	Dr. Erach Bharucha	<b>Expert Member</b>
4	B.K. Patnaik,	<b>Expert Member</b>
5	S. S. Srivastava	<b>Expert Member</b>
6	Dr. Anish Andheria	<b>Expert Member</b>
	Dr. Khageswar Nayak	<b>Expert Member</b>
8	Sidhantha Das	<b>Member</b> , Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
9	M. S. Negi	<b>Member</b> , Director, Wildlife Preservation, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
10	Sunil Pandey	<b>Member</b> , Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh
11	Vinod Kumar	<b>Member</b> , Field Director Kawal Tiger Reserve, Representative of Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana
12	Dr. Ranjana Gupta	<b>Member</b> , Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam
13	P K Verma	<b>Member</b> , Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand
14	Nitin Kakodkar	<b>Member</b> , Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra
15	K. Biswal,	<b>Member</b> , Joint Secretary and Legislative Counsel, Ministry of Law and Justice
16	V. Tiwari	<b>Member</b> , Joint Secretary, representative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs
17	A. K. Singh,	<b>Member</b> , Secretary, representative of Chairperson of National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes
18	Dr. Sanjeeb Patjoshi	<b>Member</b> , Joint Secretary, representative of Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj
19	Anup Kumar Nayak	<b>Member Secretary</b> , Additional Director General of Forests (Project Tiger), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

NTCA Members *in absentia*

S.No.	Name	Designation
1	Dr. Mahesh Sharma	<b>Vice Chairperson</b> , Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2	K. C. Ramamurthy	<b>Member</b> , Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
3	Raju Shetty,	<b>Member</b> , Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)
4	Vacant	<b>Member</b> , Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)
5	Tishyarakshit Chatterjee	<b>Expert Member</b>
6	Hemendra Kothari	<b>Expert Member</b>
7	C. K. Mishra	<b>Member</b> , Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

8	Secretary,	<b>Member</b> , Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
9	Chairperson	<b>Member</b> , National Commission for Scheduled Castes
10	Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha	<b>Member</b>

### Other Members Present

S.No.	Name	Designation
1	Dr. S. P. Yadav	APCCF (UP)
2	Dr. Amit Mallick	IGF (NTCA)
3	Surender Mehra	DIGF (NTCA)
4	Nishant Verma	DIGF (NTCA)
5	Dr. Vaibhav C. Mathur	AIGF (NTCA)
6	Dr. Raja Ram Singh	AIGF (NTCA)