



Minutes of the 11th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), held under the Chairmanship of Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forests & Climate Change on 28 August, 2015 at the Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi

The 11th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forests & Climate Change and Chairperson, National Tiger Conservation Authority on 28 August, 2015 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

The Hon'ble MEF&CC and Chairperson, NTCA welcomed the members and initiated the discussion. He highlighted the importance of tiger conservation and India's long standing track record under Project Tiger. It was also stated that over the years, the Project Tiger coverage has increased considerably with 48 reserves in 18 States, amounting to almost 2.02% of our country's geographical area. The Government of India is actively collaborating with tiger States to save wild tigers, and due to such ongoing efforts, the country has more than 50% of world's tiger population.

The efforts on national and international fronts for tiger were highlighted. The national efforts involved securing the tiger source areas, with an exclusive tiger agenda, followed by a co-occurrence agenda in the buffer and beyond. Field protection, day to day tiger monitoring and ensuring inviolate space for tiger are given utmost importance, with the state-of-art technology and capacity building of field units. Use of electronic surveillance and unmanned aerial vehicles has also been explored, besides collaboration with the NRSA for an Alert system to forecast flood and fire in susceptible reserves.

The Chairperson also informed the members about his forthcoming visit to the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (Assam), for reviewing protection and problems relating to flood.

The Chairperson stated that the States are provided funding support under Project Tiger for antipoaching operations and other initiatives, in addition to 100% central assistance for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF). The recent in-principle approval in this regard for Melghat and Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserves was highlighted, in addition to efforts for providing adequate funding support towards voluntary relocation of people from core/critical tiger habitats, recommending notification of the Bor Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, support for addressing human-tiger interface conflicts, issue of Standard Operating Procedures to deal with orphaned tiger cubs, ongoing country level assessment of tigers, co-predators and prey, independent assessment of tiger reserves and study relating to valuation of tiger reserves.

The bilateral understanding with Nepal on wildlife / tiger conservation was articulated, including the forthcoming joint report on tiger status in the Terai Arc Landscape involving areas of both countries. The Chairperson also highlighted the bilaterals with China, Bangladesh and Russian Federation for strengthening tiger conservation.

The Chairperson reiterated the commitment to protect biodiversity / wildlife and forests, while stating that protection of nature and development can go hand in hand and conservation should not be seen as a drag on development.



The Chairperson announced the following decisions vis-à-vis the agenda items:

1. Requesting the State of Karnataka for a proposal to notify Cauveri and MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuaries as a tiger reserve.
2. Annually carrying out 'Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves' by States.
3. Collaboration of National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau for an online tiger / wildlife crime tracking / reporting system in tiger reserves.
4. Institutionalizing an award for successful conservation of endangered species (other than tiger) in tiger reserves.

This was followed by deliberations on agenda items as indicated below:

Agenda Item No. 1

Confirmation of minutes of the tenth meeting (dated 26.08.2014) including action taken.

The Authority may like to take note of the above and confirm the minutes of the tenth meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

The Chairperson solicited comments on the minutes of the ninth meeting of the NTCA. The NTCA confirmed the minutes of its ninth meeting held on 19th June, 2013.

Agenda Item No. 2

Action taken on the minutes of the 11th meeting of the NTCA

1. Requesting the State of Karnataka for a proposal to notify Cauveri and MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuaries as a tiger reserve – State is not inclined to notify the same as a tiger reserve; proposal not received in the NTCA.
2. Annually carrying out 'Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves' by States- All Chief Wildlife Wardens and Field Directors have been apprised.
3. Collaboration of National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau for an online tiger / wildlife crime tracking/ reporting system in tiger reserves – Action has been initiated. Institutionalizing an award for successful conservation of endangered species (other than tiger) in tiger reserves – Action has been initiated.
4. Recommendation for notification of Bor Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra as a Tiger Reserve – the same has been notified as 47th Tiger Reserve vide Notification No. WLP-0114/CR-26/F-1 dated 16.08.2015 by the State of Maharashtra.

The Authority may like to take note of the above.

1. **Notifying the Amargarh area of Uttar Pradesh for tiger conservation**

The area of Amargarh has been notified by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh as a buffer of the Corbett Tiger Reserve on 21.07.2012.



The NTCA took note of the action taken.

2. **Notifying Pilibhit forest division as a tiger reserve**

The Pilibhit Forest Division has been notified as a tiger reserve by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, vide their notification dated 9.6.2014.

Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, Member, NTCA suggested that trans-Sharda river forest habitats like Lagga-Bagga, Shuklaphanta should be considered as tiger corridors. Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh, Member, NTCA endorsed the same.

The NTCA took note of the action taken and suggestions.

3. **Naming Mukandra Tiger Reserve as Mukundwara**

The NTCA was apprised of the reference in this regard was made to the State. Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, Member, NTCA justified his proposal for change of name as 'Mukundwara'.

The NTCA took note of the action taken and suggestion.

4. **Notification of Rajaji as a tiger reserve, conditional to solving ongoing issues**

The NTCA was apprised of the fact that the final recommendation for notification of Rajaji Tiger Reserve has been communicated to the Government of Uttarakhand. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand apprised the ongoing process in this context, within the State.

The NTCA took note of the action taken in this regard as indicated in the Agenda notes.

5. **Conserving Surahi range of East Terai Division (Uttarakhand) for rhinos**

The NTCA was apprised of the reference made in this regard to the Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand.

The NTCA took note of the action taken in this regard as indicated in the Agenda notes.

6. **Keeping record of sub-adult tigers, cubs including tiger mortality in country level assessment**

The NTCA took note of the action taken in this regard as indicated in the Agenda notes.

7. **Advisory relating to posting / tenure of Field Directors of Tiger Reserves**

The NTCA took note of the action taken in this regard as indicated in the Agenda notes.

8. **Providing ration allowance to field staff of tiger reserves**

The NTCA was apprised about the notification issued in this regard, which was noted.

9. **Eradication of *Opuntia* species from Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu**



The Member Secretary (NTCA) informed that interventions relating to weed removal are addressed in Tiger Conservation Plans of respective tiger reserves.

The Authority took note of the same.

10. Appraisal of village relocation in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve

The Member Secretary (NTCA) highlighted the appraisal done by officials of NTCA and the AS & FA of MoEF & CC. Shri Brijendra Singh, Member, NTCA articulated on the need for providing funding support towards voluntary relocation from the CAMPA funds. Dr. K. Ullas Karanth, Member, NTCA emphasized the need for posting efficient and young officers in the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) to expedite voluntary village relocation. He also stated that the process should not be delayed while settling the rights of people. Shri J.T. Rajappa, Member, NTCA stated that the voluntary relocation in Nagarahole have been much delayed, due to lack of coordination between the tiger reserve management and the district level committee. He also urged for providing funding support from CAMPA towards voluntary relocation from protected areas, other than tiger reserves, like the Wayanad in Kerala.

The Chairperson informed that a comprehensive scheme is being devised for supporting proposals relating to afforestation and relocation under CAMPA. The Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, pointed out that local people are being displaced from the Satpura Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh) without due compensation. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh emphasized the need for enhanced funding support towards voluntary village relocation.

Shri A.P. Shibu, Member, NTCA raised several issues relating to slow progress of village relocation in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu, while denying the same, apprised the Authority of factual status and reviews done at various levels.

11. Posting of veterinary doctors

The NTCA took note of the action taken as indicated in the Agenda notes.

12. Creation of rescue centres

The NTCA took note of the action taken as indicated in the Agenda notes.

13. Involving organizations like ITBP for training of field staff of tiger reserves

The NTCA took note of the action taken as indicated in the Agenda notes.

14. Steps to check change in land use and mushrooming of resorts in the periphery of Corbett Tiger Reserve

Shri H.S. Panwar, Member, NTCA stated that tourism infrastructure has disrupted the Kanha-Pench corridor. The Member Secretary (NTCA) informed about the set of comprehensive guidelines issued by the NTCA, vis-à-vis the directives of the Hon'ble Apex Court for regulating tourism. The Chairperson stated that identified wildlife



corridors / pathways should not be disturbed. Shri Nagendra Singh, MP and Member, NTCA, while articulating on the tigers straying from Panna Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh), stated about the possible corridor linkages in the landscape. S/Shri Brijendra Singh, A.J.T. Johnsingh and P.K. Sen, Members, NTCA highlighted the importance of corridor. Shri P. Bhattacharya, MP and Member, NTCA emphasized the need for regulated tourism and steps to prevent sale of forest areas. The Chairperson, while highlighting the enforcement measures taken in the context of polluting industries, emphasized the need for enforcement. Shri Nagendra Singh, MP and Member, NTCA urged for providing basic development inputs like transport and road in buffer areas of tiger reserves.

15. Prescribing timeline for investigating tiger deaths

The NTCA took note of the action taken as indicated in the Agenda notes.

16. Supporting Gujjar relocation from Corbett

Shri Brijendra Singh, Member, NTCA emphasized the need for funding support in this regard.

The NTCA took note of the action taken and the suggestion.

17. Conserving Chilla-Motichur corridor in Uttarakhand

The NTCA took note of the action taken as indicated in the Agenda notes.

18. Removing the encroachment from Sundarkhal (near Corbett)

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand apprised the Authority of the efforts being taken for relocating the Sundarkhal village, close to the Corbett Tiger Reserve.

The Authority took note of the same.

19. Vaccination of cattle around tiger reserves

The NTCA took note of the action taken as indicated in the Agenda notes.

20. Supporting research in Applied Aspects

The NTCA took note of the action taken as indicated in the Agenda notes.

21. Stopping fund flow to tiger reserves in cases of non-compliance of advisories

The NTCA took note of the action taken as indicated in the Agenda notes.

22. Creating interstate coordination

The NTCA took note of the action taken as indicated in the Agenda notes.

Agenda Item No. 3



Update on Recent Initiatives

(i) Central assistance to tiger States under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger – a total of Rs. 175.02 crores was released to 17 tiger States in 2014-15. Rs. 89.56 crores has been released during 2015-16 to 18 tiger States till date.

(ii) Grants provided to tiger States from NTCA.

(iii) Country level assessment of status of tigers, co-predators and prey 2014 : 2226 Tigers (Range 1945 – 2491).

(iv) Independent Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves :

Total tiger reserves assessed	:	43 tiger reserves
Very good rating	:	17 tiger reserves
Good rating	:	16 tiger reserves
Fair rating	:	10 tiger reserves

(v) Tiger deaths and steps taken to address poaching

Mortality-2015 (as reported by States)

Due to Natural and other causes	:	9
Poaching including seizure	:	2
Cases under scrutiny	:	37
Total (as on date)	:	48

(vi) New tiger reserves : Rajaji National Park (Uttarakhand) has been declared as 48th tiger reserve on 21.04.2015.

(vii) Bilateral meetings

(viii) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

(ix) 24X7 e-surveillance – funding assistance to Kaziranga and Ratapani

(x) Important meetings - Phase-IV

(xi) Economic valuation – IIFM

(xii) Workshop for capacity building of field personnel in collaboration with the CBI

(xiii) FSI : Assessment of status and changes in forest cover in and around tiger reserves

(xiv) UAV

(xv) M-STrIPES implementation

(xvi) National Repository of Camera Trap Photographs of Tigers

(xvii) Statutory compliance relating to preparation of Tiger Conservation Plan

(xviii) Constitution of State level Steering Committee Tiger Conservation Foundation (TCF) [Section 38X of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972] Notification of core/ buffer areas of tiger reserves under section 38V of the Wildlife Protection) Act, 1972.

(xxi) Laying of Annual Reports of NTCA

(xxii) Deployment of Special Tiger Protection Force



- (xxiii) Revised version of Project Tiger/ NTCA website
- (xxiv) Digitization of office records
- (xxv) Creation of posts for Multi Tasking Staff
- (xxvi) Office space
- (xxvii) Office vehicle

Steps taken to address poaching

Update on Recent Initiatives

The Authority took note of the recent initiatives.

Agenda Item No. 4

Approval of budget / expenditure schedules for the year 2014-15

The Authority may like to approve / ratify:

- Ratify / approve the form of financial statements together with balance sheet, income and expenditure account, receipts and payment statements as at Annexure-III for the year 2014-15.
- Approve the allocation and other receipts of Rs. 12,48,65,448/- to the NTCA for the year 2014-15, and the expenditure incurred of Rs. 10,05,81,870/- leaving an unutilized amount of Rs. 2,42,83,578/-.

Approval of budget / expenditure schedules for the year 2013-14

The Authority approved and ratified the following:

1. The forms of financial statements together with balance sheet, income and expenditure account, receipts and payment statements (Annexure-III A of the Agenda notes) for the year 2013-14.
2. Allocation and other receipts of Rs. 17,10,51,736/- to the NTCA for the year 2013-14, and the expenditure of Rs. 13,79,52,054/- incurred, while leaving an unutilized amount of Rs. 3,30,99,682/- (Annexure-III B of the Agenda notes).



Agenda Item No. 5

Agenda items proposed by NTCA Members

- (i). Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh, Member, NTCA
- (ii). Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, Member, NTCA
- (iii) Dr. K. Ullas Karanth, Member, NTCA

Agenda Item No. 6

Any other item with the approval of the Chair

The meeting ended with a vote of thank to the Chair and Members.



Annexure-1

List of participants