



Annexure-I

Minutes of the 13th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), held under the Chairmanship of Shri Anil Madhav Dave, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 19th September, 2016 at the Mahanadi Conference Hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi

The 13th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Anil Madhav Dave, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Chairperson, National Tiger Conservation Authority on 19th September, 2016 at the Mahanadi Conference Hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi.

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

Shri M.C. Malakar, Shri Hemandra Kothari, and Shri T. Chatterjee, Members of NTCA sought leave owing to personal reasons which was approved by the Chairman, NTCA.

The Hon'ble MEF&CC and Chairperson, NTCA welcomed the members and asked Additional Director General (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) to initiate the proceedings. While mentioning about the role India is playing vis-à-vis tiger conservation, he highlighted that India is home to 70% of world's free ranging tigers and the same should be showcased accordingly.

Additional Director General (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) initiated the deliberations on agenda items as follows:

Agenda Item No. 1

Confirmation of minutes of the twelfth meeting

The Chairperson solicited comments on minutes of the twelfth meeting of the NTCA. Since no objection was raised by any Member on the said minutes, the NTCA confirmed minutes of its twelfth meeting held on 17.03.2016.

Agenda Item No. 2

Action taken on the minutes of the 12th meeting of the NTCA

1. Finalisation of Awards

Additional Director General (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) briefed about the subject and category-wise details of the awards conferred by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to the awardee tiger reserves during 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on tiger conservation held in New Delhi from 12-14 April, 2016.

NTCA took note of the action taken.

2. Deliberations on vacancy position in Tiger Reserves

NTCA took note of the action taken. It was decided that referring to the letter sent earlier by the Hon'ble MEF&CC and Chairman, NTCA to the Chief Ministers of the



Annexure-I

tiger range States, he would like to send a letter again to the Chief Ministers of the States where no action has been initiated so far.

3. Recent tiger part seizures in Uttarakhand

Additional Director General (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) highlighted about various action taken by State of Uttarakhand, STF and WCCB. NTCA took note of the action taken. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand intervened and highlighted the problem of providing adequate protection to dispersing tigers in the Corbett landscape especially in context of those dispersing in adjoining areas of the State of Uttar Pradesh. He stressed on the fact that suitable habitat patches in the State of Uttar Pradesh should be brought under aegis of buffer of the Corbett Tiger Reserve and inter-state meeting should take place on regular basis. Shri P. Bhattacharya, Member, NTCA and Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha also highlighted the importance of buffer areas. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka stated, quoting the examples of Kudremukh, Cauvery and MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary that the NTCA should evolve a mechanism to fund 'potential tiger areas' as due to lack of adequate managerial interventions, tigers in such areas are more susceptible to extraneous factors.

4. Habitat management activities to reduce man-animal conflict

Additional Director General (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) apprised the NTCA of the various measures taken in this regard including provision of funding assistance, ex-gratia payment as well as different provisions / mechanisms cited in the Standard Operating Procedures and Tiger Conservation Plans. The members appreciated that it is one of the major issue which needs to be addressed in the swiftest possible manner.

Additional Director General (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) also apprised that under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project tiger funding assistance is provided to field formations for habitat management in tiger reserves. Besides, Chief Wildlife Wardens of the tiger range States have been requested to submit proposal on "fodder and water augmentation" to be funded under CAMPA Scheme by Wildlife Division of the MoEF&CC.

Shri Erach Bharucha, Member, NTCA emphasize the need for capacity building of all stakeholders especially the police. The Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal highlighted initiatives taken by the State in this regard. Shri P. Bhattacharya, Member, NTCA and Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha stressed on the need for greater interagency coordination in this context.

It was decided that provisions of the SOP shall be reiterated and tiger range States will be requested to adhere to the same while following the Wildlife (Protection) Act.

5. Evolving innovative methods such as incentivising people for safeguarding corridors

The NTCA was apprised of the provisions as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and framing of corridor plan as part of Tiger Conservation Plan and delineation of



Annexure-I

such corridors at the macro level by the NTCA-WII. Further micro level identification has been carried out for the Eastern Vidharbha landscape in Maharashtra by the NTCA-WII.

NTCA took note of the action taken.

It was underscored that tiger range States should go for identification of corridors at the micro level and make it part of the statutory Tiger Conservation Plan.

6. New funding pattern of CSS-PT

Additional Director General (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) briefed about the present status of funding pattern system. NTCA took note of the action taken. Members desired that the matter should be taken up by the NTCA again with the Hon'ble Finance Minister where all efforts should be put in to get at least village relocation, STPF and antipoaching activities excluded from the ambit of current dispensation.

It was also decided that the matter shall be pursued further at the level of NTCA.

7. Service Tax and Income Tax on Tiger Conservation Foundations

Additional Director General (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) briefed on the subject with action taken so far.

NTCA took note of the action taken in this regard. It was decided that matter should be taken up with the CBDT and CBEC with intervention of the Secretary (E,F&CC).

8. Fabrication of technology used for tiger conservation within the country

Additional Director General (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) briefed about the constitution of team of officers and progress thereupon. NTCA took note of the action taken so far in this regard. Hon'ble Chairman, NTCA stressed that development of technology for fabrication of equipments should be done in a time bound manner indigenously involving organizations like ISRO, CSIR, Department of Science and Technology, such that India is in a position to provide the same to the world at a cheaper rate and to fulfill our mission of Digital India and Make in India.

Agenda Item No. 3

Updates

A presentation was made by the Additional Director General of Forests (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) deliberating all the technological advancements made by India vis-à-vis tiger conservation, besides other progresses / initiatives made during the year.

The Hon'ble Chairman, NTCA underscored the need to sub-classify causes for tiger mortality, vis-à-vis the current format of reporting tiger mortality. The Member Secretary (NTCA) clarified that the same is followed and shall be presented accordingly in future.



Annexure-I

Agenda Item No. 4

Approval of budget / expenditure schedules for the year 2015-16

The NTCA unanimously ratified the budget of the NTCA with the Secretary (E,F&CC) stressing the need to authorize Member Secretary (NTCA) for getting the Annual Report laid down on Table of both the Houses of Parliament, once the Audit Report is received and approved by the Chairman, NTCA.

Agenda Item No. 5

Agenda items proposed by NTCA Members

(i) Dr. Ravi Singh, Member, NTCA

While lauding the Chairman, NTCA for his remarks in context of fabrication of technology indigenously, he mentioned willingness of the Indian Space Research Organisation to provide a dedicated bandwidth for wildlife research. He also expressed the need to leverage improved Indo-Myanmar ties for tiger conservation. Shri Ravi Singh, Member, NTCA highlighted the challenge posed by Canine Distemper Virus to India's tiger population and the need to address the same, besides other diseases transmissible from livestock to wildlife.

(ii) Shri Rajan Gurukkal, Member, NTCA raised the issue pertaining to: relocation of non-tribal enclosures from Tiger reserves and tiger landscapes; detailed enclave management studies inside TRs; implementation of Sabarimala Master Plan and Parking space at Thekkady in PTR

NTCA took note of the matter.

Agenda Item No. 6

Any other item with the approval of the Chair

1. Shri Rajpal Singh, Member, NTCA raised the issue of revision of package available for voluntary village relocation. This was seconded by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka who emphasized the need to revise the existing package for relocation / rehabilitation of villagers from core/critical tiger habitat of tiger reserves in light of the developments in the last preceding years. Members were of the view that a committee should be formed consisting of members from NTCA, some retired experienced officials and other experts. In this context, the Hon'ble Chairman, NTCA opined that the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions needs to be recognized in this process and they should necessarily be a part of such a committee.

The ADG (PT) & Member Secretary (NTCA) made it clear that the rehabilitation package is based on the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 of the Ministry of Rural Development and it shall be prudent to effect any change in the current package on revision of this policy by the said Ministry.



Annexure-I

2. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar requested the NTCA to facilitate use of drones / UAVs in Valmiki Tiger Reserve due to paucity of staff. The Hon'ble Chairman, NTCA cautioned to the use of such technology in bordering areas of the country to avoid untoward diplomatic consequences.
3. Shri Nagendra Singh, Member, NTCA and Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha raised the following issues:
 - a. Assessment of impact of the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project on Panna Tiger Reserve and the surrounding landscapes.
 - b. Assessment of carrying capacity of tigers in tiger reserves.
 - c. Providing restorative managerial interventions in respect of identified corridor areas.
4. Representative of the Tribal Ministry raised the following issues:
 - a. Village rehabilitation should not be carried out near city / town limits and without the informed consent of Gram Sabha.
 - b. It was made clear that the village rehabilitation / relocation is a voluntary activity which is carried out with due diligence.

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



Annexure-I

Annexure-1

List of participants

1. Shri Anil Madhav Dave, Hon'ble MEF&CC and Chairman (NTCA).
2. Shri Nagendra Singh, Member, NTCA and Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha.
(e-mail: nsinghnagod@gmail.com)
3. Shri Raju Shetti, Member, NTCA and Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha.
(e-mail: rajushetti@gmail.com)
4. Shri P. Bhattacharya, Member, NTCA and Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha.
(e-mail: pb.bpintuc@gmail.com)
5. Shri A.N. Jha, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
(e-mail: secy-moef@nic.in)
6. Dr. S.S. Negi, DGF & SS, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
(e-mail: dgfindia@nic.in)
7. Shri B.S. Bonal, ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA). (e-mail: ms-ntca@nic.in)
8. Shri B.K. Patnaik, Retd. Member (NTCA) and PCCF & CWLW, UP, 105-Surekha Villa, Nigmananda Nagar, Lane-2, Bomikhal, Bhubaneswar-751010.
(e-mail: bkpatnaik@hotmail.com)
9. Dr. Rajan Gurukkal, Member (NTCA) and Visiting Professor, Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore-560012. (e-mail: rgurukkal@gmail.com)
10. Shri Rajpal Singh Tanwar, Member (NTCA), SAKET, 4-Prem Nagar, Jhotnara, Jaipur-203012, Rajasthan. (e-mail: rajpalsinghbanethi@yahoo.co.in)
11. Dr. E.K. Bharucha, Member (NTCA) and Director, Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education, Dhankawadi, Pune. (e-mail: erach.bharucha@bvieer.edu.in)
12. Shri Khetrabasi Biswal, Joint Secretary & Legislative Counsel, Ministry of Law & Justice, Legislative Department, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. (e-mail: k.biswal@nic.in)
13. Shri Ravi Singh, Secretary General & CEO, WWF-India, Lodi Estate, New Delhi.
(e-mail: ravisingh@wwfindia.net)
14. Shri B.J. Hosmath, PCCF & CWLW, Karnataka (e-mail: pccfwl@gmail.com)
15. Shri U.S. Jha, IFS, Addl. PCCF & CWLW, Bihar. (e-mail: cwlwbihar@rediffmail.com, usjifs@gmail.com)
16. Shri Shree Bhagwan, PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Maharashtra.
(e-mail: bhagwan109@gmail.com)
17. Shri Pradeep Vyas, PCCF (WL) & CWLW, West Bengal.
(e-mail: wbwildlife@gmail.com, pradeepvyas19@gmail.com)
18. Dr. D.V.S. Khati, CWLW, Uttarkhand. (e-mail: dvskhati@gmail.com)
19. Dr. H.S. Negi, IGF (NTCA). (e-mail: ig-ntca@nic.in)
20. Shri Sanjay Kumar, DIG (NTCA). (e-mail: dig-ntca-mef@nic.in)
21. Dr. Vaibhav C. Mathur, AIG (NTCA). (e-mail: aig3-ntca@nic.in)
22. Ms. Priya Tayde, Representative, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi.
(e-mail: priya.teyde@undp.org)