

भारत सरकार
Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
राष्ट्रीय व्याघ्र संरक्षण प्राधिकरण
National Tiger Conservation Authority

F. No. 15-15/2021-NTCA


New Delhi, the February 16, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Summary records/ minutes of the 19th Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority held on 05.01.2022 – reg.

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith minutes of the 19th meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority, as approved by the Hon'ble Chairman, NTCA / MEF&CC, which was held on 5th January, 2022 for kind perusal and record.

Encl: As above.


(Md. Sajid Sultan)
Asstt. Inspector General of Forests (NTCA)
Email: aig2-ntca@nic.in
Tel. No. +91 11 2436 7837-39
Fax: +91 11 2436 7836

Distribution:

1. All NTCA Members/ Participants (as per list enclosed)

Copy to:

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

S.No.	Name/Designation and Address
1.	The Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2.	The Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
3.	Ms. Diya Kumari, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)
4.	Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)
5.	Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
6.	Shri P.R. Sinha, Former Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, House No. K-1-12, Sector -D, Prasad Lab, Kankar Bagh Colony, Patna, Bihar-800020.
7.	Dr. Tishyarakshit Chatterjee, Former Secretary, MoEF&CC, Plot No. 208-A, Road No. 14, Jubilee Hills, Telangana-500033
8.	Shri Hemendra Kothari, Chairman, DSP Black Rock, Mafatlal Centre, 10th Floor, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021. Maharashtra
9.	Dr. Erach Bharucha, Director, Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment, Education and Research, Katraj-Dhankawadi Campus, Pune-Satara Road, Pune-411043
10.	Shri B.K. Patnaik, IFS, Retd. PCCF & CWLW, Uttar Pradesh, 105-Surekha Villa, Nigamananda Nagar-2, Bomikhal, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751010.
11.	Shri S.S. Srivastava, IFS, Retd. PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Flat No. B-031, Raheja Atlantis, Sector-31, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001.
12.	Shri Anish Andheria (Ph.D.), Wildlife Conservation Trust, 11th Floor, Mafatlal Centre, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021.
13.	Shri Khageswar Nayak, Retd. Field Director, Kanha Tiger Reserve, S.V.19, Shreekhetra Vihar, Aiginia, Dist. Khurda, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751019.
14.	Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
15.	Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
16.	Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
17.	Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
18.	Chairperson, National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes
19.	Chairperson, National Commission for the Scheduled Castes
20.	Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj
21.	Director, Wildlife Preservation, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
22.	Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh
23.	Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana
24.	Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam
25.	Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha
26.	Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand
27.	Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra
28.	Joint Secretary and Legislative Counsel, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice
29.	Additional Director General of Forests (Project Tiger), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**Summary Records of 19th Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority
(NTCA)
(Held on January 5, 2022, New Delhi)**

The 19th Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held on January 5, 2022 under Chairmanship of Sh. Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Chairman NTCA at Mahanadi Conference Hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi.

2. The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**. Leave of absence was taken note of by the chair in respect of NTCA members who could not attend the meeting physically (**Annexure-II**).

3. The meeting began with a round of introductions of NTCA members. Which was followed by two minutes of silence to pay tribute to all those field personnel who lost their life in the line of duty because of covid and animal attacks.

The ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) while formally welcoming the members initiated the proceedings, requesting the chair for the release of the three publications viz.

- (i) Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India
- (ii) Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav 'India for Tigers: A Rally on Wheels'
- (iii) Atlas showing perennial and seasonal water sources of tiger reserves for better management planning

4. The ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) continued with the proceedings briefing the chair and members on the following salient aspects:

- (i) 14 Tiger Reserves were approved for CA|TS accreditation by the International Committee. All of the Tiger Reserves were particularly chosen for their uniqueness quotient.
- (ii) Declaration of New Tiger Reserves; It was briefed that, In-principal approval was given to Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary (Arunachal Pradesh) & Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (Bihar).

Final approval has been accorded to Ramgarh Vishadhari Wildlife Sanctuary (Rajasthan) and Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary (Karnataka) and Guru Ghasidas (Chhattisgarh).

Further, states have been advised to submit proposals for the following:

- Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh)
- Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary (Goa)
- Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary (Uttarakhand)
- Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala)

(i) Corridor Management

It was briefed by ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) that the issues and concerns with respect to corridor management have been raised by members in the past. It was stated that identification of corridors is being carried out along with All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) exercise, wherein 32 major corridors have been marked.

Emphasizing on the importance of corridors in facilitating genetic exchange and dispersal, it was stated that there are no provisions in Wildlife Protection Act 1972 to notify areas as corridors, however they get surrogate legal protection by Tiger Conservation Plan. Further, the same can be declared an Eco-Sensitive Zone, Conservation Reserve or Community Reserve by the concerned State.

(ii) Application of Technology - M-STriPES

The ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) briefed the house about the success and advantage of using technology in tiger estimation and management in the country. Special emphasis was laid on the M-STriPES App that is being used as a vital tool with respect to Patrolling, Ecological data gathering and with respect to matters pertaining to conflict.

Other interventions and use of technology such as Deep Metal Search Detectors for tracing snares; Camera traps, use of Drones were mentioned.

The ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) briefed the chair and the members about the commitment that the 2022 Tiger estimation exercise shall be 100% M-STriPES based.

(iii) Proposed welfare of Tiger Reserve staff

The ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) spoke on the need and importance of welfare of the staff in the Tiger Reserves. It was stated that the staff shall be provided benefits of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (PM- JAY) to provide health insurance cover upto 5 lakhs per family per year.

It was also stated that the benefits of E-shram (of Rs. 2 Lacs) will be extend to the causal/ contractual/ daily wage staff of the Tiger Reserves.

Skill Development of local communities around Tiger Reserves and staff to be carried out through Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

vi) Thereafter, suggestions were invited from the members of NTCA with permission of the Chair.

(A) Inputs from Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Smt. R. Jaya, Additional Secretary, representing Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs stated the following:

1. Provision of Section 4 & 5 of Forest Right ACT 2006, need to be kept in mind for declaring new areas under Critical Wildlife Habitats.
2. It is important to integrate tribal communities in the conservation efforts as they are a vital component of the landscape having a symbiotic relationship with forests and nature.

(B) Inputs from Sh. Anish Andheria (Ph.D), Wildlife Conservation Trust, Mumbai

1. With regard to the concern of Electrocutation, it was suggested that wires should be underground to reduce death of animals.
2. Since there are close to 46,000 families living inside core areas of Tiger Reserves, the process of voluntary relocation needs to be expedited.
3. There has been 6 months delay in payment of salary of Daily wagers in Pakke, Dampa and several other tiger reserves was raised. There is a need to utilize CSR funds to create a revolving fund for making these payments.
4. Tiger deaths in the country must be seen as a percentage/proportion of the number of tigers present in the state and not as absolute numbers.
5. Psychological Health of the frontline staff should be mapped. Senior staff needs to be trained so that they are able to better manage and motivate the frontline forest staff.
6. It is important to keep in mind the overall outlay/expansion/shape of the protected area being considered for proposing a Tiger Reserve to serve the maximum purpose of protection.
7. Gate money from tourism and Cess from hotels should go to the concerned tiger reserve and not to the state kitty. This money should be available to the field director for improving protection in the corridors and livelihoods of local communities.

(C) Inputs from Sh. S.S Srivastava, IFS Retd.

1. It is a matter of concern that not much work is being carried out in states with respect to corridor management. Such corridors should be mapped and be sent to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), Railways, etc. which shall enable them to carry out mitigation measures to facilitate these corridors.

(D) Inputs from Sh. M.K. Yadava, Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam

1. The Committee was briefed with respect to the proposal of elevated road corridor at Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.

(E) Inputs from Sh. B.S. Hooda, APCCF (Wildlife) representing Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra

1. The concern with respect to Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) was raised, wherein it was briefed that in Chandrapur approximately 40 people lost their lives to HWC. He requested NTCA to come up with a guideline to deal with such conflicts.
2. Gregarious Flowering at Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve was also flagged.
3. It was briefed that there has been a level of hesitance in the field staff since the death of one Forest Guard during line transect exercise. Therefore, provision to have 3-4 people along with the Forest Guard during the estimation exercise was requested.

(F) Inputs from Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan.

1. With respect to Notification regarding corridors for safe movement officers in adjoining sanctuaries and forest areas, CWLW Rajasthan informed that, there is no provision for notification of corridors under the Wildlife Protection Act although corridor areas can be declared as Protected Areas. The National Ghariyal sanctuary which has been declared on either side of River Chambal is a major corridor connecting all tiger bearing areas and potential areas of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh which lie along this river and its tributaries. Parts of this sanctuary are being included in the Tiger Reserves. For example, the part of this sanctuary near Kota is a part of the Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve while the remaining part of this sanctuary in Kota district and its Bundi part is proposed to be included in the Ramgarh Vishdhari Reserve. Additionally, the corridor area between Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and proposed Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve is also proposed to be included in the buffer. Corridor areas in Dhaulpur district have been proposed as Tiger Reserve also. Other corridors like those

connecting the Udaipur forest area to the Chambal forest areas and those connecting Sariska and Ranthambore are being explored.

A committee has been constituted by the State Government for developing a long term strategy for tiger conservation in Rajasthan which is also working on these aspects.

2. With respect to the issue raised regarding Posting of field staff as per the sanctioned strength, it was reported by CWLW that most of the wildlife areas are not fully staffed but Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) have been made operational in all the 3 Tiger Reserves. The State Government has provided 300 additional Border Home Guards against vacant posts thus cutting down the vacancies by half. Though these Border Home Guards are not perfect replacement for regular Forest Guards, these serve as a stop gap arrangement till the regular recruitments are done. It may be pointed out that the recruitment process is ongoing at present.
3. Adequate training of field staff as per the sanctioned strength; Recently, NTCA conducted a training for monitoring in Tiger reserves at Sawai Madhopur. The department has also provided resources for initiating M-STrIPES in several potential tiger areas and training is being provided to the field staff for better monitoring and protection utilizing the new resources.
4. Progress of relocation of existing villages in tiger reserves: It was reported that, more than 186 families have been relocated in the past 2 years despite paucity of resources. Meeting of the State Level Monitoring Committee is being held soon to expedite this process. Efforts are being made to expedite the relocation process.
5. Plans for reducing inbreeding in tigers especially at Ranthambhore and Sariska Tiger Reserve: The matter was discussed in a recent meeting of the technical committee of NTCA. It was decided that a meeting will be held at Sariska to address this issue, initially in Sariska. This meeting is likely to be held soon.
6. Kumbhalgarh and Todgarh Raoli Sanctuaries (Proposed Kumbhalgarh Tiger Reserve) as a potential site for development of the 5th Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan: CWLW Rajasthan reported that, NTCA had constituted a committee to examine the feasibility of creation of a Tiger Reserve in Kumbhalgarh Raoli Todgarh landscape. The committee observed that the existing geographical shape of these Protected Areas needs to be redesigned. The landscape also does not connect to other tiger bearing areas. Other shortcomings pointed out by the committee include the

presence of invasive *Prosopis juliflora*; the existence of steep terrain; lack of personnel; and anthropogenic pressures. The committee confirmed that support of local people for creation of a Tiger Reserve exists.

The committee recommended phased implementation of the project with the initial emphasis on delineation of Critical Tiger Habitat with an improved shape; removal of invasive species; inclusion of areas outside the existing sanctuaries; eco-restoration; soil and moisture conservation; habitat improvement; prey base augmentation; improvement of protection infrastructure; filling of staff vacancies; training of staff; voluntary relocation of villages; improvement in monitoring; and mitigation of linear infrastructure. After these activities have been undertaken, the committee recommended that in Phase 2 (that will start from 2023) tiger reintroduction could be initiated.

Part of the recommendations which relate to improved wildlife management have already been initiated in the landscape. For example, the department has initiated implementation of M-STriPES in this area; additional Border Home Guards have been deployed against vacant posts and prey base augmentation enclosure has been created. The NTCA report has been sent to the Government as well as presented to the committee for long-term planning referred above.

7. Progress and findings of NTCA's report on Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve
NTCA report on Mukundra Hills tiger reserve is awaited.
8. Other issues raised during the meeting
 - (i) It was emphasized that the wildlife wing has lack of resources and personnel for undertaking large scale relocation and other wildlife management activities.
 - (ii) It was informed that the committee for declaration of Critical Wildlife Habitat under FRA has been constituted for Sitamata as well as Kumbalgarh sanctuary paving the way for resolving the issues related to the rights of the tribal community in these Protected Areas. This will help in defragmentation of these forests and thus aid in habitat improvement which is essential for rehabilitation of wildlife.
 - (iii) Plough back of the Eco-development surcharge part of entry fee has been initiated by the Government. However, the entry fee still goes into government revenues.
 - (iv) The augmentation of prey base is a major priority of the department and request has been sent to Central Zoo Authority to permit release of zoo animals into prey base augmentation enclosures which are being made at several places including Kumbhalgarh.

- (v) Eco sensitive zone for Mukundra Hills Tiger reserve has already been declared and the process is on for declaration of Eco sensitive zones around Sariska Tiger Reserve and Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.
- (vi) Tiger ST6 in Sariska is now healthy after treatment.
- (vii) Steps are being taken to reduce alienation of local inhabitants from the Protected Areas by involving them as Nature Guides, Tourist vehicle operators, etc. Bawarias in Sariska have been trained for catching monkeys in urban areas and the initiative has produced good results.
- (viii) The pressure of tourism on various PAs is very high and needs to be regulated since it consumes a lot of energy and resources of the department.
- (ix) Cheetah introduction was proposed to be undertaken in Rajasthan too. However, NTCA has informed that they will be introduced in Kuno Palpur in the first phase.
- (x) Pandupole in Sariska is heavily disturbed because of the pilgrim traffic and there is little option for changing the situation. Efforts are being made to regulate tourism, introduce electric vehicles and exclude part of the route through fencing as has been done successfully in Jhalana Leopard conservation reserve.
- (xi) The department is working towards creating newer habitats for overflowing population of tigers in Ranthambhore by developing habitats and relocating villages from Bundi, Karauli and Dhaulpur.
- (xii) Wildlife Crime control set up as prescribed by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Government of India has been established.

(G) Inputs from Sh. Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)

1. The issue of poor recruitment rates of staff in the Tiger Reserves was raised. Highly qualified candidates are being recruited who eventually leave the post for other jobs, thereby impacting the work. Particular emphasis should be laid on raising the criterion for physical standards set for recruitment.
2. It was requested that the staff should be provided with Ration allowance.
3. One suggestion was to expedite the process of declaring Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary as Tiger Reserve. Also, the scope of declaring Sitamata in Pratapgarh as Tiger Reserve.
4. Emphasis should be made on Foot Patrolling.
5. A high-level committee be setup to access the recruitment of staff at Tiger Reserves.

6. The need to review wildlife laws, making them more stringent to curb poaching. The concern of increased poaching during the lockdown was also raised as well as the issue of alarming number of Tiger deaths in Madhya Pradesh where the patrolling was not up to the mark. It was further added that 50 tiger dying due to infighting is beyond comprehension and should be examined.
7. The issue of heavy traffic movement in Sariska Tiger Reserve was raised, wherein the road gets choked due to heavy footfall of pilgrims into the park. This is severely impacting the Tiger Reserve.
8. It was recommended that corridors from Ranthambore to other areas be maintained to reduce overcrowding.

(H) Inputs from Sh. Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)

1. Applauded the performance of the committee, and suggested increasing the frequency of the meetings.
2. Suggested that the budget of Tiger Reserves be increased as 80% of the same is utilized towards manpower, thereby an important source of livelihoods.
3. Through the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) mode, companies can contribute for conservation via the Government. He appreciated efforts of NTCA for initiating the Tiger Conservation Authority Fund.
4. With respect to Tourism standards in the country it was suggested that more areas should open up for tourism within the ambit of norms. This would enable getting more people in the reserve, hence will facilitate establishing the connection of people with nature.
5. Raised the concern of protection of Daily wagers in Tiger Reserves, who should be insured by means such as Tiger Conservation Foundation.
6. The Water Conservation Atlas document was greatly appreciated and suggested that the document be further updated.
7. Similarly, it was suggested that a list/inventory of Forest Bungalows be made.
8. With respect to Forest Fires, best practices from around the globe be taken up and a district level plan to manage such fires be prepared on the similar lines.
9. The revenues generated from Park via tourism should be ploughed back to the Tiger Reserve. The benefit should reach the locals and park directly.
10. Awards constituted in the field of Tiger Conservation was applauded.
11. The NTCA meeting should have a representative from the Tourism Department.

12. Tourist guides training should be in a manner to such as to train the persons as naturalists.
13. The formula for calculating carrying capacity needs to be simplified, as the current one seems complicated and difficult to implement.
14. A notification for including the Member of Parliament in Local Area Committees of Tiger Reserves. The report on linear infrastructure by the committee is still awaited.
15. An Eco- Tourism Guideline from NTCA should be prepared.
16. The report received regarding the status of Veterinary setup in Tiger reserves needs to be updated with relevant such as full details pertaining to existing infrastructure, shortages, requirements, etc.
17. MPLADs to extend support to Tiger Reserves with for Rescue Vans, Solar Infrastructure.
18. FICCI, wants to be included in the initiatives of NTCA as a participatory approach.
19. There should be a standardized layout plan/model of Forest Chowkis, in order to have overall uniformity.
20. The process of approval of the Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP) is to be looked into.

(I) Inputs from Ms. Diya Kumari, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)

1. Requested the chair that the process of declaring Kumbhalgarh as Tiger Reserve should be expedited.
2. Raised the concern with respect to inbreeding of Tigers in Ranthambore and Sariska Tiger Reserve.
3. The discord between park management and the locals around is of concern and the people do not feel a part of the protected area. There is alienation from the park management and the locals and is one of the reasons which is leading to rising mining issues in the area.
4. Status of Van Dhan Yojna was raised in the context of livelihood support to locals.
5. The field staff is to be better equipped and trained.
6. There is a need for notification of corridors. This will enable better management and formulation of mitigation plans for liner infrastructure, thereby boosting coexistence.
7. To look for the possibility of introducing Cheetah in Mukundra Tiger Reserve.
8. Raised the concerns about certain zones in Tiger Reserves giving access to particular hotels only.
9. Many Forest Rest Houses are in a dilapidated condition. Attention is to be given to their maintenance and upkeep.

10. The tourism infrastructure and amenities in the park needs to be boosted to bring about a better visitation exercise, such as toilet facilities, drinking water, etc.

(J) **Inputs from Secretary, MoEF&CC**

1. The parks must use electric vehicles wherever feasible.
2. Certain models of ecotourism doing well in the country should be replicated throughout the country e.g. the Eco-tourism model at Kabini, Jungle Lodges, Karnataka.

After Seeking inputs from the members, Agenda wise discussion was followed

(a) **Agenda No. 1: Confirmation of Minutes of 18th Meeting held on 07.12.2020**

Decision: Members confirmed minutes of the 18th Meeting of the NTCA.

(b) **Agenda No. 2: Action Taken Report on the 18th meeting of NTCA.**

The ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) briefly explained the highlights of the Action Taken Report (ATR).

Decision: Members approved the ATR at the 17th meeting of the NTCA.

(b) **Agenda No.3: Approval of Annual Report and Budget / Expenditure schedules for 2020-21.**

The ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) informed that there has been 98.29% utilization of the budget sanctioned under Grants-in-aid and Grants-in-aid salaries during 2020-21.

Decision: Members approved the annual report and budget/expenditure schedules for 2020-21.

(c) **Agenda No. 4 : Updates from NTCA secretariat**

- (i) New Tiger Reserves (Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu)
- (ii) Committees constituted (Expert / Appraisal)
- (iii) Status of Tiger Conservation Plans (TCP)

Decision: Members took note of the updates.

(d) **Agenda No. 5; Appraisal and ratifications of decisions of Technical Committee of NTCA and Recommendations made to National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).**

The ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) presented that during the current tenure of NTCA, Five technical committees were held and recommendations for a total of 16 developmental proposals had been given to the Standing Committee (SC) of NBWL under section 38 O of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Decision: The members ratified the decisions of Technical Committee and recommendations made to Standing Committee of NBWL.

(e) **Agenda 6, Proposed by Ms. Diya Kumari, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)**

(i) Kumbhalgarh and Todgarh Raoli Sanctuaries (proposed Kumbhalgarh Tiger Reserve) as a highly potential site for development of the 5th Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.

It was briefed by Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan that Kumbhalgarh is not an ideal habitat for Tigers. The prey base there needs to be expanded. An assessment of the same needs to be done.

(ii) Progress and findings of NTCA's report on Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve was informed.

Decision: Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to visit Kumbhalgarh along with members for taking a final view.

(f) **Agenda 6.1: Proposed by Sh. Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)**

(i) Adequate funding support to Centrally Sponsored Scheme – Project Tiger

(ii) All India Tiger Estimation

(iii) Compulsory insurance for all categories of field staff working in Tiger Reserves

(iv) Delineating corridors at finer scale

(v) Use of technology for Tiger Conservation

The members have were briefed by ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA)

(g) **Agenda 7; Proposed by Sh. S.S. Srivastava, IFS Retd.**

(i) Management of tiger corridors in India

The aforementioned item was already briefed by ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA)

5. Followed by the discussion, ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) requested The Chair for observation and comments

The Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change made the following observations and decisions:

- i. The frequency of the NTCA meeting henceforth shall be the first week of every January, April, August, December.
- ii. The next NTCA meeting to be held in a Tiger Reserve
- iii. With respect to issues raised by the representative from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, it was stated that a joint meeting along with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is being taken up for tiger conservation.
- iv. With respect to tourism management Core area shall be an absolute 'No Entry Zone' with strict regulations, rest of the area is to be managed properly with provisions such as 'one way movement' of tourist vehicles GPS tagging of these vehicles. This shall invariably be part of the management plan.
- v. Serious concerns were expressed with respect to tiger poaching in the country. He appreciated the move for air gun surrender in Arunachal Pradesh and stated that more such initiatives are to be carried out. It was further observed that given the unique set up of the country the forest and natural resources cannot be managed in isolation. Integrating communities in conservation is of prime importance and more efforts shall be made.
- vi. Development of a Management Information System, a single window system for ease of dissemination of information, which shall provide all relevant information of the Tiger Reserves of the country may be ensured.
- vii. Directions were given that in order to take policy decision for holistic tiger conservation a two member committee (for each Tiger Reserve) is to be formed wherein visits to tiger reserves is to be made (target of two parks up to the month of April).

The said committee is to provide information with respect to the area visited such as the communities dependent on it, specialties/ uniqueness of the park, tourist in flows, hotels around and other related matters.

- viii. The benefits of E-Shram and Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) to reach the field staff working in Tiger Reserves.

- ix. Eco-tourism guidelines issued by the Ministry should be circulated among the member.
- x. Climate change vis-à-vis Indian forests have a greater role and the need to internationally recognize this was flagged.
- xi. Importance of India as a signatory of CITES was also indicated and accordingly the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is being amended incorporating the provision.
- xii. To reduce dependency on forests it is vital to promote and revive aspects of agroforestry, encouraging medicinal plants in agricultural fields.
- xiii. A discussion be undertaken with the Railway Authorities for re-visiting railway proposal to analyze those can be dropped or taken outside Protected Area.
- xiv. Upgradation of Parivesh portal is needed wherein prior intimation shall be given to the user agency when forest lands are coming in the proposed alignments.
- xv. Informed members on the *amendment in Biodiversity Act/ Wildlife (Protection) Act, IFC which is underway.*
- xvi. Plans/Proposals for all Tiger Reserves, Eco-Sensitive Zones to be finalized with immediate effect.

Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC and Chairman, NTCA, expressed satisfaction over the efforts of NTCA. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and participants.

List of Participant in the meeting:

S.No.	Name/Designation and Address
1	The Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2	The Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
3	Ms. Diya Kumari, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)
4	Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)
5	Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
6	Shri S.S. Srivastava, IFS, Retd. PCCF & HoFF, Odisha,
7	Shri Anish Andheria (Ph.D.), Wildlife Conservation Trust,
8	Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
9	Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
10	Smt: R. Jaya, Additional Secretary, representing Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
11	Representative of Chairperson, National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes
12	Shr. N.K. Janoo, CCF, Meerut representing Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh
13	Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam
14	Sh. B.S. Hooda, APCCF (Wildlife) representing Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra
15	Mr. Arindam Tomar, Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan
16	Joint Secretary and Legislative Counsel, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice
17	Additional Director General of Forests (Project Tiger), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
18	Dr. Y.V. Jhala, Representing Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

List of Participant who could not attend the meeting physically:

S.No	Name/Designation and Address
1	Shri P.R. Sinha, Former Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun,
2	Dr. Tishyarakshit Chatterjee, Former Secretary, MoEF&CC,
3	Shri Hemendra Kothari, Chairman,
4	Dr. Erach Bharucha, Director, Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment, Education and Research
5	Shri Khageswar Nayak, Retd. Field Director, Kanha Tiger Reserve
6	Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment
7	Chairperson, National Commission for the Scheduled Castes
8	Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana
9	Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand
10	Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha