

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. 15-3/2022-NTCA


Dated: 2nd May, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Summary records/minutes of the 20th Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority held on 09.04.2022 – reg.

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith minutes of the 20th meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority, as approved by the Hon'ble MEF&CC/Chairman, NTCA, which was held on 9th April, 2022 for kind perusal and record.

Encl: As above


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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.	Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) – Vacant
4.	Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) – Vacant
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, Shreekheta 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 20th Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority
(NTCA)
(Held on April 9, 2022, Arunachal Pradesh)**

The 20th Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held on 9th April, 2022 under the Chairmanship of Sh. Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Chairman NTCA and in the presence of Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon'ble Minister of State, Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Vice Chairman, NTCA at Pakke Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh.

The list of members/participants is at **Annexure-I**. Leave of absence was taken note of by the Chair in respect of NTCA members (**Annexure-II**).

The meeting began with a round of introductions of NTCA members. Followed by Agenda wise discussion.

Agenda – 1: Updates on activities of NTCA Secretariat

1. 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) Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) to deal with the Tiger re-introduction and supplementation in wild.
 - (ii) Forest Fire Audit Protocol for Tiger Reserves.
 - (iii) Technical Manual on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves in India
2. Bandhavgarh, Pench and Sathyamanglam tiger reserves were presented with CA/TS accreditation. All of these tiger reserves were chosen for their uniqueness quotient by the CA/TS International Committee.
3. The ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) continued with the proceedings briefing the chair and members on the following salient aspects:
 - (i) With respect to control of forest fires, all the tiger reserves have been put on alert. The respective PA managers are updating on a real time basis regarding the fire status in their areas, on aspects such as damages, control of the fire, etc.
 - (ii) The review of E-Shram and Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) is under progress as directed by last meeting of NTCA
 - (iii) The 4th cycle of Management Effective Evaluation (MEE) is to be initiated shortly. Parameters such as that of Climate Change adaptation and mitigation, Wetland management have been incorporated in the updated document.
 - (iv) Updates on All India Tiger Estimation 5th cycle was presented.

The 5th cycle of the All India Tiger Estimate is under progress. The report of the same is to be submitted by December 2022/January 2023. It was briefed that estimation of the Elephant population is being done for the very first time, in a scientific manner by DNA analysis of the elephant dung is part of All India Tiger Estimation 5th cycle.

Also efforts are being taken to enhance the coordination between the neighbouring countries such as Nepal and Bangladesh with respect to the exercise of All India Tiger Estimation.

- (v) A documentary was shown to the members regarding the efforts that were taken up by the management of Amrabad Tiger Reserve Tiger Reserve, Telangana to ensure a plastic free Park.

Agenda -2: Status update of Sariska Tiger Reserve

The ADG (PT)/Member Secretary (NTCA), briefed the chair that, due to the incidences of fire in Sariska tiger reserve, the Chief Wildlife Warden Rajasthan is unable to attend the meeting. However, updates and compliance report from Sariska has been received from the Chief Wildlife Warden and fire has been controlled.

Agenda -3: Inputs/updates from NTCA Members

(1) Visit to Tiger Reserves

With respect to the two member committee formed (19th Meeting of NTCA) to visit various tiger reserves, the chair was informed that the said visits could not happen, more coordination of time was required between the expert members and Hon'ble members of the Parliament.

Shri P.R. Sinha, Member NTCA suggested that the rest of the expert members may continue with the mandate of the committee and visit respective tiger reserves as per schedule.

(2) Any other issue/Inputs

(I) Inputs from Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand

Raised the issues in Palamu Tiger Reserve, which has been severely impacted by Left Wing Extremist (LWE). This has led to destruction of prime habitats and breeding areas of tigers.

He further highlighted the importance of involving the locals in conservation, it was suggested that integration of the youth of the local communities can be done by way of providing jobs to the fringe dwellers/inhabitants.

Such people being the inhabitants of the landscape are well verse with the area and the Jungle tradecraft. Their talents and experience can be used for safeguarding the forests and the associated biodiversity.

(II) Inputs from Sh. P.R. Sinha, Member NTCA

- It was emphasized that, in addition to the LWE problem in Palamu tiger reserve, acute grazing pressure has also contributed to the degradation of the habitat, thereby leading to the fall in tiger population of the area.
- It was also flagged that recruitment of staff has been pending since 1990s thereby most of the posts (more than 60%) are either vacant or the occupant staff is nearing retirement.
- Rebranding of tiger reserves needs to be done with the aim to increase the ambit and image of the reserve. This can be done by highlighting other services provided by the protected area apart from protection/conservation of tigers
- Emphasis to be laid on planning of interface areas such as the buffer and the corridor, this can be achieved by mainstreaming the tiger conservation plans (TCPs) for such areas with the district plan through sensitization and knowledge sharing.

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

Suggested linking of Tiger reserves with the rivers around such areas. This shall serve the purpose of protection of the rivers from illegal activities such as that of sand mining. This in turn will be beneficial for the aquatic fauna such as the dolphins and also curb the menace of flooding of rivers due to sand mining.

(IV) Inputs from Field Director, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

Raised the issue with regard to welfare of staff working in respective tiger reserves and other wildlife areas. It was stated that these staff who are posted in the field in the interior areas do not get House Rent Allowance (HRA) as they use the Government facilities there. However, unlike the staff of territorial areas, these staff have to maintain another accommodation to keep their families. Therefore, the HRA of such staff working in wildlife areas should be foregone as an incentive of working in difficult/remote areas.

Keeping in view of the difficult working conditions, 30% of Basic salary should also be given to these wildlife staff as an additional allowance to motivate them.

(V) Inputs from Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam

Requested NTCA to release the balance amount for settlement of 2nd & 5th additions at Kaziranga Tiger Reserve

Also updated the members regarding the addition of 200 sqkm. area to the existing Orang Tiger reserve.

Agenda -4: Proposed by Sh. S.S. Srivastava, Member NTCA

(1) Management & Protection of Tiger Reserves during covid time and role of M-STripes

(2) Manpower and Infrastructure issues

The aforementioned items were already discussed during the course of the meeting.

Agenda No. 5: Confirmation of Minutes of 19th Meeting held on 05.01.2022

Decision: Members confirmed minutes of the 19th Meeting of the NTCA.

Agenda No. 6: Action Taken Report on the 19th 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 18th meeting of the NTCA.

Agenda No. 7: Approval of Annual Report and Budget / Expenditure schedules for 2021-22.

The ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) informed that there has been 98.30% utilization of the budget sanctioned under Grants-in-aid General and Grants-in-aid Salaries during 2021-22.

Decision: Members approved the annual report and budget/ expenditure schedules for 2021-22.

Additional Agenda: Declaration of Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary as Tiger Reserve

Decision: The members accorded the final approval for declaration of Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary as Dibang Tiger Reserve.

Followed by the discussion, ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) requested for observation and comments of the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Chairman NTCA and Hon'ble Minister of State, Environment, Forest and Climate Change/ Vice Chairman NTCA.

- (1) The Hon'ble Minister of State, Environment, Forest and Climate Change/ Vice Chairman NTCA made the following observations and comments:

It was suggested that CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds from companies/ industries located in the vicinity of the tiger reserves/protected area should be explored to invest in the activities of the reserve.

- (2) The Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Chairman NTCA made the following observations and decisions:

- (a) Absence of members was taken note of, and it was directed that reasons be sought from members for not attending the meeting

- (b) Regarding the visit of the members to respective tiger reserves, it was directed that a list of members be made for visiting tiger reserves. The members are to be handed a list of issues that they are required to be taken into account during their visit to the tiger reserves. The indicative points to be included are meeting with communities of the area, the local NGOs, staff welfare, status of tourism, other challenges etc.

By 15th May, at least 25 tiger reserves can be visited. A list of members with designated Tiger Reserve prepared is to be shared with the office of the HMEFCC.

- (c) The next meeting of NTCA is also to be held in a tiger reserve by 1st week of July 2022. A precursory meeting of the members is to be held a day before the final meeting so as to deliberate upon issues requiring decisions.
- (d) The areas of interface of tiger reserves with other agencies/department such as Border Security force, Railways, National Highway Authority, etc. be identified/listed for resolving the same through consultation.
- (e) The chair reiterated that, the core of the tiger reserve must be maintained as the sanctum sanctorum of the area, and all efforts are to be taken to keep the area intact.
- (f) A cell to be constituted in NTCA with adequate number of researchers who shall be documenting all the publications related to tiger conservation.

Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC and Chairman, NTCA, expressed satisfaction over the efforts of
NTCA

The meeting ended with vote of 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	Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF&CC
4	Shri B.K. Patnaik, IFS, Retd. PCCF & CWLW, Uttar Pradesh
5	Shri S.S. Srivastava, IFS, Retd. PCCF & HoFF, Odisha
6	Shri P.R. Sinha, Former Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun,
7	Shri Anish Andheria (Ph.D.), Wildlife Conservation Trust
8	Sh. Bivas Ranjan, ADG (Wildlife), MoEF&CC
9	Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam
10	Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh
11	Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand
12	Sh. Yuvraj S, CF, representing Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra
13	Ms. Sunita Anand, Additional Legislative Counsel, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice
14	Dr. S.P. Yadav, ADG (Project Tiger) MS (NTCA)
15	Dr. Amit Mallick, IGF (NTCA), New Delhi
16	Sh. W. Longwah, IGF (NTCA), Guwahati
17	Chief Wildlife Warden, Arunachal Pradesh
18	Dr. Y.V. Jhala, Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
19	Sh. Qamar Qureshi, Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
20	Sh. A.K. Mishra, CCF & Field Director Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh
21	Sh. B.S. Annigeri, Field Director, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh
22	Sh. Md. Sajid Sultan, AIG (NTCA), New Delhi

List of Participant who could not attend the meeting:

S.No	Name/Designation and Address
1	Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
2	Dr. Tishyarakshit Chatterjee, Former Secretary, MoEF&CC,
3	Dr. Erach Bharucha, Director, Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment, Education and Research, Pune
4	Shri Khageswar Nayak, Retd. Field Director, Kanha Tiger Reserve
5	Shri Hemendra Kothari, Chairman, DSP Black Rock, Mumbai
6	Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
7	Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
8	Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
9	Chairperson, National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes
10	Chairperson, National Commission for the Scheduled Castes
11	Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj
12	Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha
13	Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana