

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. 15-15/2022-NTCA

Dated: 30.01.2023

Office Memorandum

Sub: Minutes/summary records of the 22nd Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority held on 03.01.2023 – regarding

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith minutes/ summary records of the 22nd meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority, as approved by the Hon'ble MEF&CC/ Chairman, NTCA, which was held on 3rd January 2023 at Bandipur Tiger Reserve, for kind perusal and record.

Encl: As above



(Md. Sajid Sultan)

Asstt. Inspector General of Forest (NTCA)

Email: aig2-ntca@nic.in

Tel. (EPABX): + 91 11 24367837-39

Distribution:

1. All NTCA Members/ Participants (List enclosed)

Copy for kind information/necessary action to:

1. PS to Hon'ble MEF&CC
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS, EF&CC
3. Sr. PPS to Secretary, EF&CC
4. Sr. PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
5. Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka
6. Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, MoEF&CC.
7. IGFs/DIGF/AIGFs, NTCA HQ and Regional Offices, Bengaluru, Guwahati and Nagpur
8. Field Director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka
9. The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi
10. ICICI Foundation & Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
11. PS to ADG (Project Tiger) & MS (NTCA).

List of NTCA Members

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 Kirti Vardhan Singh, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)
5.	Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
6.	Shri P.R. Sinha, Former Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun,
7.	Dr. Tishyarakshit Chatterjee, Former Secretary, MoEF&CC,
8.	Shri Hemendra Kothari, Chairman, DSP Black Rock, Mafatlal Centre, Maharashtra
9.	Dr. Erach Bharucha, Director, Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment, Education and Research, Pune
10.	Shri B.K. Patnaik, IFS, Retd. PCCF & CWLW, Uttar Pradesh
11.	Shri S.S. Srivastava, IFS, Retd. PCCF & HoFF, Odisha,
12.	Shri Anish Andheria (Ph.D.), Wildlife Conservation Trust,
13.	Shri Khageswar Nayak, Retd. Field Director, Kanha Tiger Reserve
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

Minutes / Summary records of the 22nd Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority

Held on January 3, 2023

Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka

The 22nd Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held on 3rd January 2023 under the Chairmanship of Sh. Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & Chairman NTCA at Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka.

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

The meeting began with a round of introductions of NTCA members. Followed by the release of the "Tiger Journal" by the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Chairman NTCA.

The Agenda wise discussions were as here under;

A) Agenda – 1: Updates on activities of NTCA.

The ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) formally welcomed the participants and initiated the proceedings by updating the Hon'ble Chair with respect to the below-mentioned updates on the activities of NTCA.

- The All India Tiger Estimate (AITE) exercise has neared its completion and the result shall be out in a couple of months.
- The preparations for the 50 years of Project Tiger are underway. The details and the venue are in the process of finalization.
- TCPs of the following tiger reserves were accorded approval
 - Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala
 - Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala
 - Indravati Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh
 - Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh
 - Amangarh Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh
- EFC developments: Funds to the tune of Rs 2600 crores have been recommended to be placed before the Cabinet, with a suggestion to merge Project Elephant with Project Tiger.

The NTCA- Vision Plan

Dr. Amit Mallick, IGF, NTCA briefed the chair regarding the Vision plan of the NTCA. The progress made so far is as hereunder;

- Preparation of a draft Vision Plan for the next 10 years based on thematic contours.
- Consultation of the expert committee members based on two meetings (held on 02.11.2021 & 29.08.2022).
- The Vision Plan is in synchrony with National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031).
- Views & concerns raised by the expert committee members are duly taken into cognizance and incorporated into the plan.
- Based on these, the drafting of the Plan is currently underway.

The suggestions from the members are as hereunder;

- Threats regarding invasive species are to be incorporated along with the focus on regeneration.
- a landscape level approach connecting corridors and strengthening interstate coordination in tiger conservation and its management in NE states
- Focus on wetland management
- The financial aspect is needed to be added to the vision plan.
- The plan should emphasize on corridor management.
- Hand holding of territorial divisions in terms of funds and scientific management, these areas are deprived of resources.
- Similarly, the buffer of a tiger reserve which is a multiple-use area requires focused attention.
- Disease management and zoonotic diseases are important focus areas.
- Wildlife crime management required focus in the vision plan.

- As a part of awareness generation, greater efforts in involving the local children is required to be done.
- The vision statement is required to be crisp. Views of other departments and stakeholders need to be incorporated to make the plan practical.

Inputs by the members on the celebrations of the 50 years of Project Tiger

- The importance of showcasing the enormous achievement of Project Tiger was highlighted.
- A Multi-Lingual documentary can be prepared for detailing the achievements

Updates from the Kuno National Park – Project Cheetah

The CCF/Director Lion Project briefed regarding the following points:

- At present, there is only one village (Bagcha) inside the reserve, and that is in the process of resettlement.
- Nuradehi Sanctuary, Gandhi Sagar are two immediate future cheetah sites
- Current carrying capacity is of 20, individuals with more protection the prey will go up and so will the carrying capacity.
- Aim is to establish Meta Populations of Cheetahs across historical rangeland.
- Specific impetus is being given to grassland development.
- As per quarantine laws, 30 days of quarantine was done. Monitoring and feeding is being done twice a day.
- After the quarantine period, the cheetahs are to be released in larger enclosures, these are predator-proof, solarized, 6 sqkm, divided into 9 compartments. With enough water and cover.
- The Prey base is presently being supplemented.
- All the Cheetahs have started to hunt successfully within 48 Hrs of release in the acclimatization enclosures.

- The Cheetahs are exhibiting natural behaviours such as marking etc.
- The males and female cheetahs are interacting with each other.
- Round-the-clock monitoring (morning and evening) is in place in the large enclosures with strict protocols. At least one visual per day/ per individual.
- More than 40 camera traps have been installed in these enclosures. The satellite tracking has not been started as of yet, the tracking shall be activated after the final release of the animal.
- There is also a drone and a dog squad for monitoring and protection.
- Special importance on wildlife health monitoring and disease Surveillance.
- Prime importance on engaging with people (Chitra Mitra Campaign). More than 120 camps have been conducted to date.
- Next stages of the Project Cheetah:
 - 5 Cheetahs to be released in the wild (Jan-Feb.)
 - 3 will take longer to be released considering adaptability.
 - 12 more animals are due to come from South Africa.
- Newly designed quarantine Bomas have been constructed now and are ready to house the next batches of cheetahs.

Additional Inputs from the NTCA Members:

Inputs from Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)

- Sighting the importance of Valmiki tiger reserve, the highlighted the need of the management of corridors between the state of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
(Sohalwa Range, Suhagi Barwa)
- Promotion of Homestays to promote locals into conservation which shall lead to increased benefit sharing.
- The Economic impacts of Tiger reserves need to be highlighted.

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

- Raised concern with respect to the declaration of Kumbalgarh as Tiger reserve, which is long-awaited.

It was briefed by ADG (PT)/MS (NTCA) that the state of Rajasthan has been advised to do the needful for declaring the said area as a tiger reserve. The action is still awaited.

Inputs from Sh. Anish Andheria, Wildlife Conservation Trust, Mumbai

A Biometric database of wildlife offenders throughout the country can significantly work to handle wildlife crime.

Other cats, such as the Snow leopards should be brought under the ambit of Project Tiger. This shall benefit the conservation of these animals in line with the tiger conservation of the country on the larger landscape level.

B) Agenda - 2: Issues discussed in Pre-meeting and Recommendations

- Updates from Project Cheetah and the Vision plan of the NTCA have already been discussed in the points above
- Developing voluntary Carbon markets – TERI

The progress in 6 tiger reserves is going well. After the due completion of the exercise, the TCFs shall be receiving money in return for the credits accrued.

- Conservation Initiatives Through CSR – funds through Corporate social responsibility are playing a significant role in augmenting the efforts of tiger conservation. Organisations like ICICI Foundation, IOCL, etc. are the forerunners of the same. Apart from on-the-ground work. The National Tiger Conservation Authority receives funds under CSR to carry out various initiatives concerning the management and protection of Tigers.

C) Agenda - 3: Action Taken Report

- ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA) briefed the Hon'ble chair with respect to Action Taken Report of the 21st NTCA meeting.

The Action Taken Report was approved by the Hon'ble Chair.

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

Protocol for management of straying tigers from Tiger Reserves with high population density of Tigers

ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA) briefed that an SOP regarding the same already exists

Decision: Inputs/suggestions can be taken from the field if any, to update the SOP.

E) Agenda - 5: Proposed by Sh. P.R. Sinha, Member NTCA

Golden Jubilee of Project Tiger- Regd.

The agenda was already discussed in the points above.

Observation and comments from the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Chairman NTCA:

1. The supervision and administration of Kuno National Park to be taken under the ambit of the NTCA.
2. A meeting on the implementation of Project Cheetah is to be convened at Bhopal on January 2023, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Member of Parliament along with senior officials concerned will be called to attend including multi-stakeholders departments to discuss holistic & integrated management plan in the Kuno landscape and the surrounds.
3. Tiger Reserves along with protecting the tigers must focus on protecting the entire landscape/ habitat along with its diverse flora and fauna.
4. Value assessment of Tiger reserves is important and the process for the same should be continued.
5. Village relocation on voluntary basis should be done at a fast pace, and forest rights of all the tiger reserves must be settled on priority.
6. All contractual employees must be registered in the e-Shram portal and Ayushman Yojana.

7. Natural ecological processes of the Core areas should not be disturbed. Modernization of tiger reserve management must not replace the traditional conservation methods and approaches. Acute modernization is not in the interest of Tiger conservation
8. All tiger reserves should be closed for two months a year and one day per week. This is primarily required for the field staff and the reserve to offload the tourism pressure and work in the interest of the protected area.
9. All old vehicles of the Tiger reserves are to be scrapped following the scrapping policy of the Government of India.
10. An advisory to the tiger range states to fill up the vacant positions lying in the tiger reserves to be issued.
11. A meeting (Video conferencing) with the Field directors to brief them regarding the action to be taken/compliance to the direction of the NTCA meetings.
12. An expert committee to be made regarding the removal of Lantana.
13. Discipline is to be maintained in the tiger reserves and its management. Strict action against the perpetrators of crime with zero tolerance for any unlawful activities.
14. There must be no route change in the safaris being carried out in the tiger reserves. The predesignated routes are to be strictly followed.
15. The tiger reserve management must hold discussions with the SHGs at least once a month. This shall involve addressing their concerns, and overall managerial matters and improving the functionality of these units.
16. The women SHGs are to be involved in raising nursery to manage planting works in corridor areas.
17. Thematic areas covering the dimensions of wildlife/tiger conservation have to be finalised. The documentation is to be prepared involving young officers of NTCA in collaboration with BSI, ZSI and WII. The same shall be showcased during the Golden Jubilee Project Tiger celebration. Major areas include the protection of flora and fauna, settlement of forest rights, awareness programmes, the contribution of people and efforts of frontline staff towards tiger conservation.

18. The ZSI shall be involved in preparing a short note on the fauna of all 53 Tiger Reserves. Accordingly, IIFM shall be involved in documenting the Eco system services of all 53 Tiger Reserves.
19. A small 3-5 minute documentary video has to be prepared regarding the reintroduction of Cheetah by state of MP and the same will be showcased during the Project Tiger Golden Jubilee celebration

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



Ministry of Environment,
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National Tiger
Conservation Authority

22nd Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority

On 2nd & 3rd January 2023



Bandipur Tiger Reserve

SI No	Name	Designation	Contact Number	Signature
1.	Duyakumari	Member of Parliament	9889050077	
2.	Kirti Bhandari Singh	M.P. Lok Sabha	903869462	
3.	Priya Rajan Saha	Former, WII	852730 6485	
4.	S. S. Srivastava	Ex PCCF & Hoff Odisha	9437022488	
5.	E K Bhanu	Member NCTA	9881072604	
6.	Anish Anandh	President - WCT	9920100411	
7.	B. K. Patnaik	Ex PCCF, WL & Hoff UP Mem	9437807788	
8.	Qamar Qureshi	Scientist Wildlife & Tiger Habitat	941106622	
9.	Sandhya Singh	Director / FRA Min. of Tribal Affairs	9650895718	
10.	Chinnaraja G. Naidu	DLC - MoEF	9842709122	



Ministry of Environment,
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National Tiger
Conservation Authority

22nd Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority

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Bandipur Tiger Reserve

SI No	Name	Designation	Contact Number	Signature
11.	AMIT MAZUMDAR	IG, NTCA	9995238008	
12.	N.S. MURALI	IGF, NTCA, NOIDA	943225273	
13.	MK YADAVA	PCCF & WL OFF & CWLW, Aram	943002458 9954190280	
14.	K.P. Dubey	PCCF, WL & CWLW Uttar Pradesh, KO	9140324291 9415536077	
15.	Shashikan Samant	PCCF WL & CWLW Jharkhand	8077814044	
16.	V. VEENANT BEN	ADDITIONAL PCCF WESTERN WL REGION @ MUMBAI	9511600600	
17.	J.S. Chauhan	PCCF & CWLW Madhya Pradesh	9425303604	
18.	UTTAM K SHARMA	CCF, Lion Project MP.	9412057112	
19.	M.S. Sullain	AIG(F)-NTCA New Delhi	9997670930	
20.	Harini Venugopal	AIG F, NTCA Bengaluru	9509437202	

