



**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH, HON'BLE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> OF JANUARY, 2010 IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, NEW DELHI**

The fifth meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister for Environment and Forests on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, 2010 in the Conference Hall of the NTCA, New Delhi.

At the outset, the Minister for Environment and Forests launched an online tiger crime database developed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in collaboration with the TRAFFIC India (**Agenda Item No. 2**). This was followed by the release of the first issue of a bimonthly outreach journal of the NTCA ("STRIPES").

The deliberations commenced with a condolence resolution on the sad demise of Shri Billy Arjan Singh, a legendary wildlife conservationist. Details of agenda wise deliberations are as below:

**Agenda Item No. 1**

**Confirmation of minutes of the fourth meeting and observations received from Members**

The minutes of the fourth meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) were confirmed.

**Agenda Item No. 3**

**Presentation by Shri Valmik Thapar, Member, NTCA on issues relating to tiger translocation protocol**

Shri Valmik Thapar made a detailed presentation, emphasizing the need for scientific, research based translocation of tigers. After deliberations, the Chairman directed for involving Dr. Uma Ramakrishnan, Geneticist, NCBS, Bangalore and Ms. Aparajita Datta, Member, NTCA in the translocation of tigers from Ranthambhore to Sariska.

**Agenda item No. 4**



## **Presentation on proposed village relocation from the core / critical tiger habitat of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (Forest Department Rajasthan)**

A detailed presentation on the agenda item was made by the PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan. The Member Secretary (NTCA) apprised the NTCA regarding central assistance given to the State under Project Tiger in this regard. After deliberations, the Chairman requested Shri Santosh Bagrodia, Member of Parliament and Member, NTCA for a field appraisal on the ongoing village relocation in the State and directed the Member Secretary (NTCA) for needful action.

### **Agenda item No. 5**

#### **Presentation by Dr. K. Ullas Karanth, Member, NTCA on real time monitoring of tiger population using camera traps, genetics and signs surveys followed by discussion on Agenda items proposed during the fourth meeting of the NTCA**

A presentation was made by Dr. K. Ullas Karanth, Member, NTCA on the scientific monitoring of tigers, based on the study undertaken by him in Karnataka. The presentation was appreciated and the Chairman directed for institutionalizing a scientific tiger monitoring protocol.

### **Agenda items No. 6 & 7**

The agenda items were not taken up for discussion since the members proposing the said items could not participate in the meeting.

### **Agenda Item No. 8 (Any other item)**

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi, Member of Parliament and Member, NTCA desired to know the action taken on the decisions made in the last meeting of the NTCA. Further, the member also mentioned that as many as 30 billion sites are available on the web, which advertise sale of wildlife and their products, warranting an urgent need to synergise the implementation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act with the cyber laws of the country. The Member Secretary (NTCA)



updated the members on the action taken / progress made vis-à-vis the decisions of the fourth meeting of the NTCA. The Chairman directed for taking note of the suggestions made by the member.

Shri Santosh Bagrodia, Member of Parliament and Member, NTCA desired information on several issues, which, inter alia, included mortality of tiger, protocol for monitoring tigers, protocol for post mortem, reasons for variation between the official / non-official tiger crime data, steps taken to increase prey density, identification of buffer, impact of NREGA in tiger reserves, recruitment of frontline staff and their capacity building. The Chairman directed the Member Secretary (NTCA) for sending an update to the member in this regard.

Shri Bittu Sahgal, Special Invitee, emphasized the need for ensuring the tranquility of identified corridors between tiger reserves.

The Chairman wrapped up the discussion as below:

1. The tiger translocation protocol should be scientifically refined, and a prior assessment should be done before actual translocation.
2. Shri Santosh Bagrodia, Member of Parliament and Member, NTCA may visit the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve for an appraisal on the ongoing village relocation.
3. The tiger monitoring protocol should be institutionalized with research inputs.
4. Two to three critically endangered tiger reserves should be taken up as a special drive for improving their status.
5. Based on the advise of experts / NTCA members, there would be no engagement with the World Bank in a project mode for tiger conservation.
6. A compendium of advisories issued by Project Tiger / NTCA should be prepared and circulated.
7. Good practices emanating from the field should be disseminated the officers and staff of tiger reserves should be given the state-of-art training to build up their capacity.

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

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