

F. No. 7-29/2016-NTCA
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
National Tiger Conservation Authority

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Dated: 18th January, 2017

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Summary record of the meeting of the Chief Wildlife Wardens of Tiger Range States and Field Directors of the tiger reserves of the country held at Centenary Convention Hall, Kohora Forest Range, Kaziranga Tiger reserve, Assam on 05th & 06th January, 2017 – reg.

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of the summary record of the meeting of the Chief Wildlife Wardens of Tiger Range States and the Field Directors of the Tiger Reserves of the country held at Centenary Convention Hall, Kohora Forest Range, Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, Assam on 05th & 06th January, 2017 for kind information & requisite action.

The Field Directors and the other officers concerned are requested to take the requisite action and send the compliance report to NTCA, HQrs as per the time schedule mentioned in the summary record.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Encl: As above

Nishant Verma 18/01/17
(Nishant Verma)
Deputy Inspector General of Forests (NTCA)

Distribution:

1. All participants (as per Annexure-I (attendance sheet) of the summary record of the meeting).
2. Chief Wildlife Warden(s), All Tiger Range States.
3. The Field Director(s), All Tiger Reserves.
4. The Additional Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, New Delhi.
5. The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
6. The Inspector General of Forests/Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Regional Offices at Bengaluru, Guwahati and Nagpur.

Copy for information to:-

1. The Addl. Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary (Forests), All Tiger Range States.

Copy for information also to:-

1. PS to Hon'ble MEF&CC, GOI /Chairman, NTCA, New Delhi
2. PPS to Secretary(E&F), MoEF&CC, GOI, New Delhi
3. PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC, GOI, New Delhi
4. PS to ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA).

Summary record of the meeting of the Chief Wildlife Wardens of Tiger range States & the Field Directors of the tiger reserves of the country held at Centenary Convention Hall, Kohora forest range, Kaziranga Tiger reserve, Assam on 05th & 06th January, 2017

A meeting of the Chief Wildlife Wardens of Tiger ranges States and Field Directors of tiger reserves of the country was held at the Kaziranga Tiger reserve, Assam on 05th & 06th January, 2017. The meeting was conducted with the objectives of sharing of good practices/innovative works being carried out in tiger reserves of the country & to assess compliance to statutory requirements and different advisories issued by the NTCA. At the outset, Shri Bikash Brahma, the PCCF (Wildlife)/ CWLW, Govt of Assam welcomed participants and briefed on commitment of the Government of Assam towards wildlife conservation.

2. The meeting was inaugurated by Smt. Pramila Rani Brahma, Hon'ble Minister, Environment & Forest, Government of Assam. Other dignitaries present during the inaugural function were Shri B. S. Bonal, ADG (Project Tiger) and Member Secretary (National Tiger Conservation Authority) and Shri Paban Borthakur, Principal Secretary, Environment & Forest Department, Government of Assam. The Hon'ble Minister, Environment and Forests, Govt. of Assam briefed participating officers that Assam has been working in the field of wildlife conservation over decades. She also informed that the electronic Eye Surveillance system has been installed in Kaziranga and also wildlife crime tracking system is being gainfully used. She expressed the State's commitment to use the online submission of APOs application being introduced by NTCA and also informed about putting in place the Special Rhino Protection Force (SRPF) at the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve with assistance of the NTCA very soon. She further briefed that SOPs of the NTCA are being followed in Assam and efforts are being made to use M-STriPES in all four tiger reserves of Assam. The ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA) Shri B. S. Bonal outlined pioneering initiatives taken by Govt. of India in the field of tiger conservation. Shri Nishant Verma, DIGF, NTCA, HQ. read out the message of the Hon'ble Minister, Environment Forest & Climate Change, Shri Anil Madhav Dave expressing concern on increased number of tiger deaths in the year 2016, which is a cause for introspection for field managers as well as officials' in-charge of wildlife in the State and stressed for stepping up protection measures in areas outside tiger reserves. In this message he also stressed for making urgent efforts by the concerned CWLWs and the concerned FDs with regard to constitution of STPFs. The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

3. Following inauguration of the meeting, the NTCA and WII gave a series of presentations covering the following subjects:

- (a) Monitoring System for Tiger, Intensive Patrolling and Ecological Status (M-STriPES),
- (b) All India Tiger Estimation,
- (c) Management Effectiveness Evaluation of tiger reserves and
- (d) Presentation of online submission of Annual Plan of Operations.

4. During the session on initiatives taken by the NTCA, Shri B S Bonal, ADG(PT) & MS(NTCA) emphasized the need for implementation of tripartite MoUs between NTCA, State Government and Tiger Reserves and the need to utilize Digital India initiatives and Make in India initiatives for tiger conservation. Besides compliance to statutory provisions and on being raised the issue regarding the 60:40 dispensation of fund allocation, he emphasized states to express grievances in writing and also informed participants of the initiatives taken by the Hon'ble Minister, Environment Forest and Climate Change in context to exempt Tiger Conservation Foundations (TCFs) from Service and Income tax. It was also emphasized in particular that as per IFD, Government of India, MoEF&CC information, no vote of account will be there from 2017-18 onwards as such. In order to enable the Govt. of India to release the fund under CSS-PT by April, 2017 the Field Directors have to submit their APOs of year 2017-18 latest by January / February, 2017 so that NTCA after due scrutiny can sent these APO to IFD for concurrence and for release of funds by April 1st / 2nd week by Govt. of India.

5. This was followed by a presentation on review of compliance of the Tripartite MOUs by tiger reserves done by the Regional Offices by Nishant Verma, DIG, NTCA HQ. He requested concerned FDs to take action with regard to compliance of the statutory requirements and submit the updated report in prescribed format to Regional Offices concerned of the NTCA.

6. This was followed by a presentation on the MEE being undertaken by tiger reserves by Shri D.P. Bankhwal, IG, NTCA, RO, Guwahati. He stressed for including additional criteria related to ecosystem services with regard to outcomes and also with regard to Climate change & carbon capture in tiger reserves. It was decided to circulate the MEE changes proposed to WII and other NTCA officials for inviting comments before finalising changes. A presentation on the All India Tiger Estimation 2018 was given by Shri R.G. Garawad, AIG, NTCA, RO, Bengaluru. He stressed for carrying out the Phase IV monitoring in all tiger reserves, briefed about components of Phase IV monitoring, methodology to be used for obtaining the minimum number of tigers and for submission of the Phase IV data to NTCA. He also stressed for the submission of Phase IV data including camera trap images to Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for NRCTPT. He later briefed about the tentative time line for All India Tiger estimation 2018.
7. This was followed by presentations by Field Directors of tiger reserves with regard to agenda points of the meeting. On 5th January, 2017 presentations were made by Field Directors of Tiger reserves of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Bihar while on 6th January, 2017 works being undertaken in tiger reserves of the States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Mizoram, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal along with the based practices / innovative works being carried out in the Tiger Reserves were presented. On 06th January 2017 hands on training in using M-STRIPES was given to the participants.
8. Dr. S. P. Yadav, Assistant Secretary General, Global Tiger Forum gave an overview of the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS). With regard to its implementation in six forest divisions of Uttarakhand a presentation was made by Shri Surender Mehra, Field Director, Corbett Tiger Reserve Uttarakhand.
9. Presentation on the performance audit of STPF conducted by a working group committee comprising of IGF, RO, Nagpur and IGF, NTCA, RO Bengaluru was given by Shri P.S. Somashekar, IGF, NTCA, RO Bengaluru. In his presentation, he deliberated in detail about the performance audit of STPF that was conducted in the five Tiger reserve in the country i.e., Tadoba Andhari, Pench, Maharashtra, Similipal, Odisha, Bandipur and Nagarhole, Karnataka. He briefed about shortcomings found with regard to MoU compliance, assessment of effectiveness of deployment of the STPF, cadre strength and vacancies in each tiger reserve and activities and achievements made by the force since their constitution. He also briefed about generic recommendations made by the committee and the way forward for extension of the STPF to other reserves.
10. Following this, a presentation on uploading of wild life crime data by tiger reserves on the WCCB website was made by Shri Agni Mitra, RDD, WCCB, ER, Kolkata. He briefed that uploading has been done by tiger reserves namely Amrabad, Nameri, Pilibhit, Tadoba Andhari, Sundarban, Kali, Sahyadri, Parambhikulam, Melghat, Valmiki, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves in the last three months. He requested other concerned Field Directors to upload cases on priority basis. **(Action: Concerned FDs).**
11. Dr. Ankur Awadhiya, IFS, MP presented an integrated solution to electrocution of wildlife. He briefed about problem of ground fault, current solutions available and gave a demonstration about on alerting device which can alert forest staff in case of electric ground fault. After the discussion, it was decided to conduct a pilot study of the developed solution in some forest divisions to assess its effectiveness. **(Action: CWLW, MP and other CWLWs in their respective states).**
12. After all presentations and detailed deliberations, the house was opened to discussion by the ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA). He stressed for compilation of good practices/innovative works being undertaken in tiger reserves of the country. He also stressed for preparation of a road map on the way forward for achieving goal of tiger conservation, zero tolerance towards tiger related crimes and for sustainably increasing tiger

population with reference to carrying capacity of the country. The following were the major conclusion / outcomes of the meeting:-

PENDING ISSUES

Sl. No.	Statutory requirements	Action required	Remarks
1.	Tiger conservation plans (TCP)	34 plans have been approved by NTCA, 8 plans are under scrutiny and 8 plans have not been received from the tiger reserves.	Pending TCPs from Rajaji, Orang, Kamlang, Kaziranga, Panna, Bor, and Sathymangalam tiger reserves.
2.	Tiger conservation Foundations (TCFs)	44 Tiger reserves are covered by TCFs.	TCFs are pending in Dudhwa, Pilibhit, Mukandra Hills, Rajaji, Kamlang, and Orang Tiger reserves.
3.	Phase IV results of 2015-16.	Obtained from 40 tiger reserves	Results are encouraging. Concerned tiger reserves are to carry out Phase IV results on priority basis.

12. The ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA) while summing up activities of the meeting presented the action plan for 2017-18 as under:

Action Plan 2017-18

Sl. No.	Proposed Action	Action required
1.	Implementation of online filing of Annual Plan of Operation (APO) to be submitted by Jan/Feb 2017, so as to enable NTCA to submit it to IFD by March 2017	All FDs, CWLWs
2.	Security audit of tiger reserves: planned through GTF for 2 identified Tiger reserves i.e. Kanha and Satkosia are to be taken as pilot. Framework developed for 1- Validation of protocol, Release and extend to more Tiger reserves. A framework has been developed by the NTCA in consultation with security and investigative agencies to assess security apparatus at tiger reserves with an aim to identify gaps and formulate strategies to address the same.	NTCA HQ.
3.	CA TS: In West Bengal and Chhattisgarh	National Committee CA TS CWLWs concerned.
4.	Existing criteria of MEE needs to be revisited for which a committee is to be constituted	NTCA, HQ
5.	Economic Valuation of Bandipur, Nagarjunsagar, Anamalai, Palamau, Panna, Melghat, Simlipal, Pakke, Valmiki & Dudhwa Tiger Reserves.	Concerned FDs, CWLWs Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM)
6.	Performance Audit of electronic surveillance in Corbett, Kaziranga and Ratapani tiger reserves.	Dr. H. S. Negi, IGF, NTCA, HQ., New Delhi, Shri D. P. Bankhwal, IGF, NTCA, Regional Office, Guwahati.
7.	Documentation and publication of best practices: Best practices from tiger reserves across India shall be published. Reports from Kanha, Periyar etc. have been received.	All FDs, CWLWs
8.	Extension of UAVs to 13 tiger landscapes extending this in 13 Tiger Reserves - Panna, Corbett, Duduwa, Ranthambore, Melghat, Simlipal, NSTR, Bandipur, Sathymangalam, Parambikulam, Kaziranga, Namdapha, Sunderbans,	WII, NTCA, CWLWS, FDs
9.	Linking web sites of various TRs with NTCA website for sharing of important information, activities, alerts, exemplary works / innovative works which needs the attention of all Tiger Reserves	NTCA, HQ, FDs
10.	Dissemination of information through SMS, WhatsApp among	All FDs, CWLWs and all NTCA

	concerned officers to have immediate sharing of the information related to exemplary and innovative activities / works and for brain storming of the new ideas related to tiger conservation.	officers.
11.	Phase IV in tiger reserves- sharing data, photos with Tiger Cell at the Wildlife Institute of India by the Tiger Reserves.	All FDs, CWLWs, NTCA Regional Offices, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
12.	Annual MEE of Tiger Reserves to continue and submit to NTCA (already MEE reports received from Navegaon Nagzira, KMTR, Periyar, Kanha, Tiger Reserves, Melghat)	Concerned FDs, CWLWs.
13.	Active management proposed in Buxa TR	Concerned FD, CWLW and IG, NTCA, RO, Guwahati.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Shri. Nishant Verma, DIG, NTCA, HQ, New Delhi.
