

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

F. No. 15-17/2011-NTCA (Part-IX)

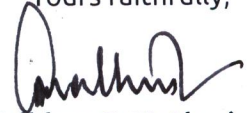
New Delhi, the February 18, 2019

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

The undersigned is directed to refer to meeting held in context of tiger mortalities in the State of Telangana held on February 15, 2019. In this regard, summary record of the said meeting is enclosed herewith for necessary action as appropriate.

Encl. As above

Yours faithfully,

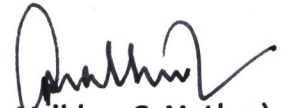


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F. No. 15-17/2011-NTCA (Part-IX)

Distribution:

- 1) The Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra
- 2) The Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana
- 3) The APCCF, Govt. of Telangana
- 4) The Field Director, Kawal Tiger Reserve
- 5) The Field Director Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve
- 6) The AIGF(NTCA), Regional Office, Bengaluru
- 7) All Officers of NTCA (by e-mail only)



(Dr. Vaibhav C. Mathur)
Assistant Inspector General (NTCA)

SUMMARY RECORD OF MEETING TO DISCUSS TIGER DEATHS IN THE STATE OF TELANGANA

A meeting to discuss tiger deaths in an around the Kawal Tiger Reserve, Telangana was held on 15.02.2019 under Chairmanship of the ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA). The meeting was attended by the members as at Annexure.

2. At the outset, the ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA) welcomed the participants and outlined the broad agenda for the meeting. He informed that owing to the recent tiger poaching & body parts seizures cases in an around the Kawal Tiger Reserve there was a need to assess the ground situation, especially in context of tiger dispersal from the Tadoba landscape which in the current understanding of tiger land tenure dynamics is acting as source area for the Kawal Tiger Reserve.

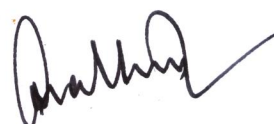
3. This was followed by an update on prevailing circumstances at the Kawal Tiger Reserve by the APCCF, Telangana as listed here under:

- i. The paucity of staff was being addressed through fresh recruitment through the Telangana Public Service Commission.
- ii. There is lack of foot patrolling at the Kawal Tiger Reserve for which necessary measures were being undertaken and accountability ensured by institutionalizing M-STRIPES.
- iii. As illegal tapping of electric transmission lines was a major problem coordination with Electricity Board officials was being carried out.
- iv. A new team of officials had been placed at the Kawal Tiger Reserve.
- v. Action had been initiated to reduce the beat area for effective protection.
- vi. It was informed that steps for unification of the core and buffer area have been undertaken.
- vii. A dog squad alongwith metal detectors had been deployed in the field as a deterrence.
- viii. A meeting at the level of the Chief Minister of Telangana had also been held who had assured of all support needed to go all out against forest/wildlife offenders besides provisioning of assistance from the Police Department.
- ix. The Police had also been roped in to provide training in investigative procedures & intelligence tradecraft.

4. The Field Director, Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve informed that the Government of Maharashtra had taken several steps to win trust of the people in surrounds of protected areas and tiger reserves. He highlighted the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Scheme which has helped people wean off from dependencies on the forest and had brought about a change in habit of people. Special mention was made of provision of LPG cylinders to fringe communities besides high yielding milch cows to avoid venturing into the forest. In addition, programmes for awareness and outreach for school children had helped gain trust of the people around the Tadoba landscape. It was also informed that steps had been initiated to reduce the beat size from 25 sq. km. to 10 sq. km. in order to ensure effective patrolling & administrative effectiveness.

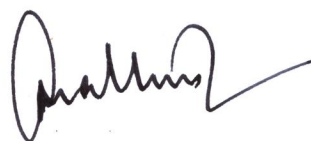
5. This was followed by a presentation by the DIGF(NTCA) which highlighted the following issues vis-a-vis Kawal Tiger Reserve:

- i. Number of anti-poaching camps are low as compare to the area the tiger reserve.
- ii. Inadequate patrolling as permanent staff do not stay in camps which is compounded by poor staff strength.
- iii. Inadequate wireless network which hampers communication for enforcement, patrolling etc.
- iv. Severe lack of infrastructure specially absence of office of the Field Director besides inadequate facilities in anti-poaching camps.
- v. Additional territorial responsibilities to the Field Director with considerable time spent on review meetings because of which the tiger reserve loses focus. There is no unified control of the core and buffer of the tiger reserve.
- vi. Lack of firearms with patrolling staff.



- vii. Non release of funds which are routed through the Treasury resulting in delays in field level implementation.
 - viii. High levels of biotic interference due to enclaved villages in the core/critical tiger habitat. This results in grazing, fire wood collection and poaching of prey base.
 - ix. Electrocutation has posed a major threat as free electricity is being provided to farmers in enclaved villages.
 - x. Poor intelligence network.
 - xi. Lack of trained staff and insufficient capacity building measures have been taken.
 - xii. The adjoining Kagaznagar Division has reported tiger presence due to lower levels of biotic interference/disturbance and good forest cover. However, this is not part of the tiger reserve.
6. Consequent to the deliberations on the issues as cited above following decisions were outlined by the ADG(PT) & MS(NTCA):
- i. In order to ensure timely release of funds, the NTCA shall explore the possibility of requesting the State Government release of CSS-PT funds directly from the State exchequer to the Tiger Conservation Foundation of the Kawal Tiger Reserve.
 - ii. An inter state meeting between Maharashtra (officials of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and Kanhargaon Forest area) shall be held under aegis of the Standard Operating Procedure on Interstate Coordination for Interstate Tiger Reserves on priority basis.
 - iii. Phase-IV monitoring at the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and Kanhargaon Forest area shall be carried out by frontline field staff under guidance of the NTCA rather than outsourcing it to a third party. This shall ensure that field staff are aware about tiger movements in their respective areas which can be communicated to Telangana officials as per decision taken at S. No. 2 above.
 - iv. Kawal Tiger Reserve officials shall also involve officials and staff of adjoining territorial divisions where tiger occupancy recorded.
 - v. Visible patrolling/area domination exercise shall be conducted in buffer/fringe areas besides enclaved settlements.
 - vi. Financial assistance for the Kagaznagar Forest division shall be solicited by the Field Director, Kawal Tiger Reserve in the APO under CSS(PT).
 - vii. Micro cores within the core/CTH with adequate prey and habitat conditions shall be identified by the Kawal management and intensively managed so as to resurrect prey and tiger population in the core.
 - viii. Coordination with the WCCB for investigation, intelligence collection as well as capacity building shall be carried out.
 - ix. Prescriptions of the approved Tiger Conservation Plan shall be followed in letter and spirit.
 - x. The Regional Office of the NTCA shall carry out focused theme based capacity development of staff of the Kawal Tiger Reserve alongwith adjoining territorial divisions.
 - xi. Proposal for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) shall be forwarded by the State of Telangana in accordance with the guidelines of the NTCA.
 - xii. Commitments as per the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding shall be complied in right earnest.
 - xiii. Coordination with the Electricity Board vis-a-vis advisory issued by this Authority shall be continued alongwith compliance of suggested measures in the said advisory.
 - xiv. Any development project coming up in the vicinity of the Kawal Tiger Reserve shall be viewed vis-a-vis Section 38 O (1)(g) the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for which the adjoining area officials need to be briefed on the process of law to be followed and the ensuing procedure. The advisory of NTCA needs to be complied with in this regard.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks ^{by} and chair.



Annexure

- 1) Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak, ADG(PT) & MS(NTCA)
- 2) Shri Nishant Verma, DIG(NTCA)
- 3) Shri Surender Mehra, DIG(NTCA)
- 4) Dr. Raja Ram Singh, AIG(NTCA)
- 5) Dr. Vaibhay C. Mathur, AIG(NTCA)
- 6) Sh. Munindra, APCCF, Govt. of Telangana
- 7) Sh. C.P. Vinod Kumar, Field Director, Kawal Tiger Reserve
- 8) Sh. N.R. Praveen, Field Director Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a horizontal line that curves upwards and to the right.