



MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SMT. JAYANTHI NATARAJAN, HON'BLE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS ON THE 18TH OF OCTOBER, 2011 IN ROOM NO. 403, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS, PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

The seventh meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority was held under the Chairmanship of Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister for Environment and Forests on the 18th of October, 2011 in Room No. 403, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi. The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

The Chairman welcomed the participants and initiated the discussion on agenda items. Details of agenda wise deliberations are as below:

Agenda Item No. 1

Confirmation of minutes of the sixth meeting and observations received from Members

The Member Secretary (NTCA) informed that subsequent to the circulation of the minutes of the sixth meeting of the NTCA, comments were received from Ms. Urmila Pingle, Ms. Aparajita Datta and Shri P.K. Sen, which would be reflected in the same. Smt. Maneka Gandhi desired to know the details of action taken on the fourth meeting of the NTCA. Dr. Jyoti Mirdha stated that copies of earlier documents / reports of the NTCA relating to village relocation and other issues should also be circulated.

The Chairman directed the MS (NTCA) for circulating the action taken notes to enable subsequent discussion. The minutes of the sixth meeting of the NTCA were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 2

Action taken on the decisions of the sixth meeting of the NTCA

The NTCA noted the action taken on the decisions made during the 6th meeting of the NTCA. Details of further deliberations on the agenda are indicated below:

Smt. Maneka Gandhi desired to know the reasons for not reintroducing the wild caught tiger at the Nainital Zoo to suitable habitat within the State of Uttarakhand. The MS (NTCA) informed that the sought in this regard and the response is awaited. Shri Samar Singh wanted to know the details of the oral report regarding the use of baits at Ranthambhore, besides reasons for the inability expressed to maintain a database of tiger births. The MS (NTCA) reiterated the oral report given by him during the 6th meeting of the NTCA



regarding the use of baits at Ranthambhore, as a specific managerial intervention to localize / lure the sub-adult tiger cubs in an area from straying into nearby human settlements. He further informed that since there is 50% neo-natal mortality of tiger cubs in the wild and their chances of reaching adulthood is tentative till they reach three years of age, it would not be meaningful to maintain a national database. Further, tiger cubs during infancy are usually concealed and are seldom spotted and hence, such reports do not reflect the factual status of natality. However, at the reserve level, record of tiger cubs, as and when noticed by field staff, exists. Dr. Urmila Pingle reiterated her comments on the draft guidelines relating to declaration of new tiger reserves, and ecotourism. The member also desired that details of compliance relating to Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 should be mentioned in the update relating to village relocation. The Chairman informed that the suggestions of the member would be considered while finalizing the said guidelines. Dr. K. Ullas Karanth desired to know the progress on Phase-IV monitoring. The MS (NTCA) gave an update in this regard, while stating that the same would be articulated in detail while discussing the agenda received from the member. Shri Samar Singh, while referring to the status of village relocation provided in the agenda notes, desired that more details should be provided in such updates. Dr. Jyoti Mirdha stated that the relocation package under Project Tiger needs to be viewed in the light of the proposed land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement bill, 2011. Smt. Maneka Gandhi emphasized the need for setting up a forensic lab relating to wildlife crime.

The Chairman wrapped up the discussion while taking note of the observations / suggestions made by members.

Agenda item No. 3

Update on initiatives / decisions taken

The Authority took note of the update regarding initiatives / decisions taken as provided under the agenda. Details of further deliberations on the agenda are indicated below:

Shri Samar Singh desired that more site specific details should be provided on the update regarding buffer notification by States. Dr. Urmila Pingle, while referring the update on tiger deaths wanted to know the reasons for fluctuations in tiger poaching incidents over the years. The MS (NTCA) informed that more sensitization / motivation of field staff has resulted in increased prosecution. Shri S.P. Yadav, DIG (NTCA) informed that an independent representative of NTCA always required to be present during the post mortem of tiger carcass to ensure transparency. The Chairman directed for studying the pattern over the years. Smt. Maneka Gandhi raised the issue of recent tiger death in Chhattisgarh due to man-tiger conflict. The MS (NTCA) apprised the Authority of the factual status, based on the site visit by NTCA officials. Smt. Maneka



Gandhi further stated that there has been no progress in the context of declaring Pilibhit as a Tiger Reserve, despite according in-principle approval by the NTCA. The Chairman directed for pursuing the matter relating to Pilibhit and other areas having in-principle approval with respective State Governments. Dr. Urmila Pingle expressed concern regarding the mushrooming of tourist facility around tiger reserves, while highlighting the need for a 'carrying capacity' in this regard. Dr. H.S. Negi, DIG (NTCA) highlighted the need for declaring the buffer areas of tiger reserves as ecologically sensitive. Shri P.K. Sen, while highlighting the guidelines of Project Tiger, desired that the posting of Field Directors by States should be done with due approval of the NTCA / Project Tiger. Dr. Urmila Pingle stated that despite her request the State Government (Andhra Pradesh) has not provided the details of notification relating to the Kawal Tiger Reserve. The members also expressed concern over the delay in several States for constituting the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF). Shri Samar Singh and several members desired to know the rationale behind inclusion of Cheetah reintroduction under Project Tiger. The MS (NTCA) informed that this was done to benefit from the experience gained in implementing Project Tiger, since Cheetah happens to be a member of the cat family. He also informed that there is a separate allocation approved by the competent authority for Cheetah translocation, which will not affect tiger conservation. Since, the ongoing schemes having an outlay below Rs. 5000 crore during the Plan period are being clubbed as desired by the Planning Commission, a separate Project for Cheetah would not be feasible.

The observations made by members were noted and the Chairman directed the MS (NTCA) for providing the details of Kawal Tiger Reserve to Dr. Urmila Pingle. It was also informed that the States would be addressed for expediting the STPF creation.

Agenda item No. 6

(a) Approval of budget / expenditure schedules for the year 2010-11 and revised schedule of 2009-10

(b) Approval of funding support from Grants-in-aid to NTCA

The NTCA approved / ratified the following:

1. The revised form of financial statements together with balance sheet, income and expenditure account, receipts and payment statements as provided at Annexure-VIII of agenda notes, for the year 2009-10.
2. The form of financial statements together with balance sheet, income and expenditure account, receipts and payment statements for the year 2010-11, as provided at Annexure IX of the agenda notes.
3. The allocation of Rs. 14.30 crore to the NTCA for the year 2010-11, and the expenditure incurred therein leaving an unutilized amount of Rs. 7,25,73,818/-.



4. The allocation of Rs. 14.71 crores to the NTCA for the current financial year 2011-12.
5. The expenditure/works undertaken as indicated at para (b) of agenda item No. 6.

Agenda item No. 7

Proposal for delegation of additional financial powers to the Member Secretary, NTCA

The NTCA approved the proposal.

Agenda item No. 8

Proposal for procurement of field vehicles

The NTCA approved the proposal.

Agenda item No. 9

Proposal for creation of 10 Posts of Multi Tasking Staff

The NTCA approved the proposal.

Agenda Item No. 10

Agenda item from Dr. K. Ullas Karanth, Member, NTCA

Details on progress of Phase-IV monitoring

The MS (NTCA) gave an update regarding the progress made towards Phase-IV monitoring. It was stated that as per the decisions taken during the International Workshop in May, 2011 at New Delhi, the tiger reserve level Phase-IV monitoring would be carried out for keeping track of tiger source populations, which would complement the snapshot country level assessment done once in four years. It was also highlighted that the said monitoring has already been emphasized in the guidelines issued earlier by the NTCA for preparing the Tiger Conservation Plan. The normative standards (in terms of camera density etc.) suggested by Dr. K. Ullas Karanth for Phase-IV monitoring have been adopted in consultation with the Wildlife Institute of India. The details of the process have also been discussed with the Field Directors and Chief Wildlife Wardens. It was further informed that the States would be supported for carrying out the Phase-IV monitoring with central assistance from Project Tiger. The role of NTCA would be limited to providing technical guidance in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, apart from making available the funding support. The Chief Wildlife Wardens of tiger States would be responsible for implementing the Phase-IV monitoring, and would be free to



collaborate with expertise available outside the Government system. The NTCA would not provide any panel of experts in this regard. Further, as suggested by Dr. K. Ullas Karanth, a centralized photo database of tigers obtained from camera traps would be created / maintained at the NTCA.

Agenda Item No. 11

Agenda item from Shri Brijendra Singh, Member, NTCA :

1. Improving the habitat of Keladevi Wildlife Sanctuary for tigers
2. Improving the corridor linkage between Ranthambhore and Sheopur forests of Madhya Pradesh
3. Developing the Ramgarh-Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan as a satellitic core area of Ranthambhore
4. Staff welfare measures

Shri Brijendra Singh articulated on the agenda items, while highlighting their importance. The MS (NTCA) stated that the proposals were important for strengthening the status of tiger in Ranthambhore. Smt. Maneka Gandhi expressed her concern in involving the 'workers society' in ecotourism ventures, cafeteria etc.

The suggestions / observations made by members were noted.

Agenda item No. 4

Presentation on Status of Tigers, Co-predators and Prey in India, 2010

Considering the paucity of time, it was decided to circulate a hard copy of the presentation.

Agenda item No. 5

Independent Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves

Considering the paucity of time, it was decided to circulate a hard copy of the presentation.

“e-Eye” electronic surveillance

A presentation was made by the project implementing agency, followed by a live demonstration. The members appreciated the initiative.



The Chairman wrapped up the discussion while directing the MS (NTCA) for follow up action on the decisions taken during the meeting. It was also stated that the next meeting of the Authority would be convened in January, 2012.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and members of the Authority.



Annexure-I

List of Participants

1. Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, MEF
2. Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Member of Parliament (LS)
3. Dr. (Smt.) Jyoti Mirdha, Member of Parliament (LS)
4. Dr. T. Chatterjee, Secretary (E&F)
5. Shri P.J. Dilip Kumar, DGF & SS, MoEF
6. Shri Jagdish Kishwan, ADG (WL), MoEF
7. Shri Brijendra Singh, Member, NTCA
8. Shri Samar Singh, Member, NTCA
9. Dr. Urmila Pingle, Member, NTCA
10. Shri P.K. Sen, Member, NTCA
11. Dr. K. Ullas Karanth, Member, NTCA
12. Dr. M. Firoz Ahmed, Member, NTCA
13. Shri B.K. Singh, PCCF (WL), Karnataka
14. Shri U.M. Sahai, PCCF, Rajasthan
15. Shri P.S. Somashekar, CCF (WL), Rajasthan
16. Shri P.B. Singh, Joint Secretary, M/o Law and Justice
17. Shri P.R. Sinha, Director, WII
18. Dr. V.B. Mathur, Dean, WII
19. Dr. Y.V. Jhala, Scientist, WII
20. Shri Qamar Qureshi, Scientist, WII
21. Shri C.V. Sarada, Under Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj
22. Dr. H.S. Negi, DIG (NTCA)
23. Shri S.P. Yadav, DIG (NTCA)
24. Shri Rajeev Sharma, AIG (NTCA)
25. Shri Sanjay Kumar, AIG (NTCA)
26. Dr. Rajesh Gopal, APCCF & MS (NTCA)