

**F. No. 15-30/2017-NTCA**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**National Tiger Conservation Authority**

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**Dated: 05.03.2018**

**Sub: Proceedings/ summary records of the meeting of Chief Wildlife Warden of Tiger Range States and Field Directors of Tiger Reserves on 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 – reg.**

A copy of the proceedings/ summary record of the meeting of Chief Wildlife Warden of Tiger Range States and Field Directors of Tiger Reserves on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 held at Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand is enclosed herewith for kind perusal.

**Encl: As above.**

Yours faithfully,

  
(Nishant Verma) 05/03/18  
Deputy Inspector General (NTCA)

**Copy to:**

1. The Chief Wildlife Warden(s), All Tiger Range States.
2. The Field Director, All Tiger Reserves.
3. The Inspector General of Forests, NTCA, RO (Bengaluru, Guwahati and Nagpur).
4. The DIG/AIGs, NTCA, HQ, New Delhi.

**Copy to:**

1. 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 Corbett Tiger  
Reserve, Uttarakhand from 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**

A meeting of the Chief Wildlife Wardens of Tiger ranges States and Field Directors of tiger reserves of the country was held at the Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand on 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. The meeting was conducted with the objectives of reviewing the progress on All India Tiger Estimation, 2018, MEETR, 2018, review of utilization of funds including funds for voluntary village relocation and sharing of good management practices being undertaken in the tiger reserves. The list of the participants of this meeting is annexed herewith at **Appendix-I**.

2. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Harak Singh Rawat, Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment, Govt of Uttarakhand. Other dignitaries present during the inaugural function were Dr. Debabrata Swain, ADG (Project Tiger) and Member Secretary (National Tiger Conservation Authority) and Shri DVS Khati, CWLW & PCCF (Wildlife), Govt of Uttarakhand. The Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment, Govt. of Uttarakhand briefed participating officers that Uttarakhand has been working in the field of fostering wildlife conservation & protecting the legacy of unique/ endemic eco systems present. He outlined the milestone initiatives taken in the State for fostering tiger conservation viz. E-Eye surveillance in Corbett TR, tiger translocation plan in western part of Rajaji TR, deployment of captive elephants brought from State of Karnataka for strengthening patrolling efforts, use of MSTRIPES etc. which has resulted in the highest population of tigers after State of Karnataka. He stressed the need for providing adequate funds from Govt of India to the State for conserving the vast biodiversity even at the cost of developmental activities. During the inauguration session, the technical manual related to Phase-III Camera Trapping Protocol, manual on use of Drones for surveillance and the documentary on camp elephants brought from Karnataka for patrolling duty in Corbett Tiger Reserve was released. The ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA), Dr. Debabrata Swain, outlined pioneering initiatives taken by Govt. of India (NTCA) in the field of tiger conservation, including *inter alia* the technical support for tiger estimation, normative guidelines, SOPs species recovery, MEE, economic valuation, the financial support for voluntary village relocation, STPF, anti-poaching activities, habitat management, M-STRIPES etc. emphasized on the need for carrying out the activities of All India Tiger Estimation, 2018 as per the NTCA schedule, submission of pending Tiger Conservation Plans from concerned Tiger Reserves which have not been received so far, constitution of TCFs which is pending in 7 Tiger Reserves, the STPF constitution which is pending in 9 Tiger Reserves part of which is related to parliamentary assurances, action taken on the in-principle approval provided by NTCA for constituting Tiger Reserves and also compliance on the advisory issued for declaration of potential tiger areas as tiger reserves. He also stressed for the compliance of the obligation of tripartite MoU between NTCA, Tiger Range States and Field Directors of the Tiger Reserves especially for taking concurrence with respect to transfers / postings of Field Directors of the Tiger Reserves, release of timely Central share and matching State share and filling up staff vacancies on priority basis. He also emphasized on inclusion of the buffer areas in the control of Field Directors and also for the submission of final report in respect of tiger mortality cases as per the SOP of NTCA.

Harak Singh Rawat  
05/08/18

3. Following inauguration of the meeting, the concerned Field Directors of Tiger Reserves and the officials of NTCA and WII gave a series of presentations covering the following subjects:

S. No.	Subject	Presenter
1	Progress and update on All India Tiger Estimation, 2018	Dr. Vaibhav C. Mathur, AIG, NTCA, HQrs., New Delhi
2	Detailed update on MEETR, 2018	Dr.Kausik Banerjee, WII, Dehradun
3	Review of fund utilization, demand for second installment and utilization of village relocation fund	Shri Nishant Verma, DIG, NTCA, HQrs. New Delhi.
4	Presentation on online APO	NIC officials Shri Kundan Mohan & Sh Manish Kumar
5	Prey augmentation and translocation protocol for wild herbivores	Shri Sanjay Shukla, Field Director, Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.
6	Successful village relocation	Shri Maloth Mohan, Field Director, Similipal and Dr. Sudarshan Panda, Field Director, Satkosia Tiger Reserve
7	Continuous camera trap monitoring using single camera traps	Shri Vivek Jain, Field Director, Panna Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh
8	Presentation on ecological of module of M-STrIPES	Shri S. Manikandan, Field Director, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Karnataka
9	Submission of proposal by States for CA/TS	Shri Nishant Verma, DIG, NTCA, HQrs., New Delhi
10	Review of pending tiger mortality cases	Dr. Vaibhav C. Mathur, AIG, NTCA, HQrs., New Delhi

4. During these presentations and discussions / deliberations there on, the outcomes / action points that emerged are as under:

- (a) For sanction of funds under CSS-PT, the procedure set by GOI has to be followed. In North East India, funds are yet to be released by the State governments. The concerned CWLWs need to take up this matter with the respective State Governments. (**Action:** CWLWs, Assam/ Arunachal Pradesh/ Mizoram).
- (b) It was emphasized that the Tiger Reserves should submit the proposal of 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of 2<sup>nd</sup> release of sanctioned APOs and the consolidated state level proposals for the AITE, 2018 fund release should be submitted urgently to NTCA. Also, the proposals for voluntary village relocation needs to be submitted by the concerned Tiger Reserves urgently to NTCA taking lessons for successful case studies from Satpura, Satkosia, Melghat and Similipal Tiger Reserves. (**Action:** All FDs/CWLWs).
- (c) The APOs for the financial year 2018-19 are expected only online in APO application of NTCA. (**Action:** All FDs/CWLWs).

- (d) Follow up of the actions needs be taken on priority basis by the concerned State Governments with regard to unified control of tiger reserves.(Action: All CWLWs).
- (e) NTCA shall prepare a SOP / advisory for translocation of herbivores on the lines of translocation protocol developed by MP Forest Department. (Action: NTCA HQrs).
- (f) During the meeting, the APO application of NTCA developed by NIC was demonstrated in detail. The presentation was given and live APO application demonstrated with some real mock data entered into application.All user level screens with flow of application were demonstrated.For “Pakke” Tiger reserve, the complete process of APO application was demonstrated, from Field Director level submitting an APO for approval, process of Chief Wildlife Warden Level and lastly submission of approved APO. It was informed that third-party Security Audit is in process, and the application shall be made live on production server by 1<sup>st</sup> week of March, 2018. It was decided to create addition user level of state Govt. equivalent along with Chief Wildlife Warden. It was also suggested to include new drop down menu APO structure to submit complete APO. However, since this will change the complete application structure, and as right now security audit is in progress, it was decided to incorporate in next phase of application. It was also informed that at present, the drop down options for sub-item types in the submit APO form are available.(Action: NIC/NTCA HQrs).
- (g) Pending tiger mortality cases:
- ✓ The States shall expedite submission of all pending tiger mortality case at the earliest. (Action: All CWLWs)
  - ✓ The NTCA in this context shall organize regional level meetings to dispose of the pending tiger mortality cases. (Action: Regional IGs of NTCA)
  - ✓ States should recognize potential conflict areas along linear infrastructure so that retrofitting mechanisms can be planned. It was advised that the States may designate an official for pursuing pending cases at different laboratories. (Action: All CWLWs)
- h) In context of All India Tiger Estimation, 2018 , following decisions were taken:
- ✓ States were appraised on the progress of AITE, 2018 till now which included completion of training of trainers workshops, training of staff in desktop version of M-STRIPES besides training of front line personnel in the said app.
  - ✓ Special mention was made of the State of Karnataka which had completed Phase-I of tiger estimation in Tiger Reserves at the time of this meeting
  - ✓ States were advised to complete the various phases of the tiger estimation as per schedule of AITE, 2018. (Action: All CWLWs)
- i) MSTRIPES Application- Patrol, Ecological & Conflict Module-directive sent for implementation i.e. 01.02.18. (Action: All FDs, CWLWs)

*Nishat V* 05/03/18

- j) Security audit of 25 tiger reserves. The concerned Field Directors needs to facilitate the assessment by the concerned teams. (**Action:** NTCA HQ.)
- k) CA|TS: The potential tiger bearing forest areas outside Tiger Reserves have to be proposed for registration under CA|TS(**Action:**The concerned Chief Wildlife Wardens (except: Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, MP and Maharashtra))
- l) MEE, 2018: All the concerned MEE teams of the different cluster need to expedite the assessment and submit the assessment report to NTCA and WII. (**Action:**All Field Directors & CWLWs)
- m) Economic Valuation of Bandipur, Nagarjunsagar, Anamalai, Palamau, Panna, Melghat, Simlipal, Pakke, Valmiki & Dudhwa Tiger Reserves. (**Action:**Concerned FDs, CWLWs to send the pending data required by IIFM, Bhopal on priority basis)
- n) Documentation and publication of best practices:Best practices from tiger reserves across India shall be published. (**Action:**All FDs, CWLWs)

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Shri Nishant Verma, DIG, NTCA, HQ, New Delhi to the Chair &the participants of the meeting.

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Nishant Verma 05/03/18