

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

B-1, Wing, 7th Floor,
Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Email: dig2-ntca@nic.in
Tel. (EPABX) 011-24367837-42
Fax: 011-24367836
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Sub: Proceedings /Summary records of the Regional level meeting of CWLWs & FDs of Tiger range States of Northern Region held on 4th May, 2018 at NTCA, Hqrs., New Delhi

Ref: Meeting notice of even no. dated 25th April, 2018.

A copy of the proceedings /summary record of the Regional level meeting of CWLWs & FDs of the tiger range States of Northern Region held on 4th May, 2018 at NTCA Hqrs., New Delhi are enclosed herewith for kind perusal & necessary action.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,

Nishant Verma
(Nishant Verma)

Deputy Inspector General (NTCA)

Distribution:

1. The Chief Wildlife Warden(s), Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
2. The Field Director (s), Corbett, Dudhwa, Pilibhit, Ranthambhore, Sariska and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserves.
3. The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
4. The Additional Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, New Delhi.

Copy for kind information to:

1. The DIG, NTCA / AIGs, NTCA, Hqrs., New Delhi
2. PS to ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA), New Delhi.

Summary record of the meeting of the Chief Wildlife Wardens and Field Directors of Tiger Reserves of the Northern Region held at NTCA, HQ on 04.05.2018

A meeting of the Chief Wildlife Wardens and Field Directors of Tiger Reserves of the Northern Region was held at NTCA, HQ on 04.05.2018 under the Chairmanship of ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA). The meeting was conducted to review the following agenda points which are as under:

1. Status and progress of online APOs submission by the Tiger Reserves for financial year 2018-19
2. Progress of the activities being under taken for All India Tiger Estimation, 2018 and pending issues.
3. Update on use of M-STRIPES Patrolling App and issues thereof
4. Pending tiger mortality cases
5. Pending proposals of Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP)
6. Pending proposals of Eco-Sensitive Zone around Tiger Reserves
7. Activities of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau pertaining to wildlife crimes in the tiger reserves.

The list of the participants of this meeting is annexed herewith at Appendix-I.

2. At the outset, the ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA) welcomed the participants and appreciated the efforts being undertaken by the FDs in the field of fostering tiger conservation & assured them for the requisite technical and financial support from NTCA. He also 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. and emphasized on the need for carrying out the activities of All India Tiger Estimation, 2018 as per NTCA schedule, submission of pending Tiger Conservation Plans, TCFs and pending constitution of STPFs etc.

3. Following the inaugural remarks of ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA), Sh. Nishant Verma, DIG, NTCA, HQrs gave a brief presentation on the above agenda points and presented the status of online submission of APO, pending tiger mortality cases in the northern region, TCPs, TCFs, STPFs constitution, ESZs, and the monitoring of the compliance of mitigation measures suggested by NTCA in development proposals. He also briefed about the status of AITE, 2018 & MSTRIPES implementation and requested the concerned participating officers to expedite the disposal of the pending issues. Following this, each FD / their representative gave a presentation on the above mentioned agenda points in respect of concerned TR. The NTCA Tiger cell officials also presented the status of AITE, 2018 & MSTRIPES activities and requisite data required from the states & the TRs.

4. The following specific issues are discussed for each tiger reserve:

- a) **Uttarakhand:** Dr. Dhananjay Mohan, APCCF, Wildlife gave a presentation on the above mentioned agenda points in respect of Uttarakhand. Online APOs submission has been done, AITE, 2018 is being undertaken in 13 Forest divisions & 2 TRs, provided the timelines of the activities and the data collation at CWLW level. He emphasized on the issues regarding data entry in MSTRIPES desktop software which needs to be resolved, progress of patrol application & the issue of declaration of the bordering areas of Corbett & Rajaji as ESZ. The TCP of Rajaji is in the last stage of finalization and has been prepared with help of GTF. MoU with partner NGO (WWF) needs to be signed urgently along with NTCA for AITE, 2018.

Nishant Verma

- b) **Rajasthan:** All the three Field Directors / their representatives' viz. Sariska, Ranthambhore and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserves gave a presentation with respect to the agenda points. The APOs of the three Tiger Reserves have been uploaded in the NTCA online APO application but Utilization Certificate is not correct as per the NTCA figures in respect of MHTR and also the tripartite MoU is not enclosed. The progress of activities with respect AITE, 2018 was presented in detail by FD, Ranthambhore. 143 camera points have been deployed in Division-I during February / March, 2018 and Division -II (only in two ranges during March, 2018). Additional cameras shall be deployed with the help of NGO i.e. Tiger Watch in peripheral areas. As regards Phase-I, the line transect and Sign Survey completed in the month of April Division-I (95 line transects) and in Division-II (80 line transects during December, 2017). Phase-I data is being uploaded in MSTRIPES desktop software and analysis of Camera Trap data is in progress. The various issues encountered with MSTRIPES ecological app were shared like species names for trees / shrubs, weeds etc. and numbering of the vegetation plots. In MHTR, the Sign Survey has been done in 82 beats during March, 2018, line transects for AITE, 2018 have not been done. As regards MSTRIPES Apps, the desktops are not supporting the software. The major issues in the patrolling and ecological app are non-formation of track maps and not support to the data saving and creating straight line of trails were informed to tiger cell representatives. Ms. Shikha Bisht, representative, Tiger Cell informed that the camera trap images of Phase-IV of Sariska need to be shared by WII project scientists / TR management to Tiger Cell of NTCA. Moreover, customization of data for PAs outside TR needs to be done for data collection for AITE 2018.
- c) **Uttar Pradesh:** The Field Directors, Dudhwa and Pilibhit Tiger Reserves gave a presentation with respect to the agenda points. The APOs has been submitted online in the NTCA APO application but the physical / financial report in respect of Dudhwa is incomplete. As regards AITE, 2018, the Phase-I -Sign Survey, line transect including vegetation, human disturbance and habitat survey has been completed in Pilibhit Tiger Reserve. 100 line transects have been laid in 5 ranges of Pilibhit. For Phase-III, 292 cameras are being deployed in 5 ranges and the camera traps layout plan and line transect layout data has been sent to NTCA. Also, the scat collection has been done for tiger, leopard and sloth bear and the same has been sent to NTCA tiger cell. For MSTRIPES patrol and ecological module implementation, the capacity building of the Field officials is required. As regard the TCP of Pilibhit, the draft has been modified as per the directions of NTCA in the last TCP meeting and the corrected draft shall be sent. The Eco-Sensitive Zone proposal of Pilibhit and rectified proposal of Dudhwa have not been received so far from the State. A MoU needs to be signed between NTCA, WII and CWLW for data use of AITE 2018.

The Phase-I has been completed in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. The Phase-I Sign Survey has been completed in Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, South Kheri Forest Division and is under progress in Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur WLS and North Kheri Forest Division. However, it has not been done in Suhelwa and Sohagibura WLS. The line transects and vegetation plots survey has not been completed in Dudhwa NP, Kishanpur WLS, North Kheri Forest Division, Suhelwa and Sohagibura WLS. As regard the MSTRIPES patrolling app, the capacity building of the staff for its use is required. Sh. Ujjwal Kumar, Tiger Cell informed that the Phase-I data have been received only from Pilibhit TR and data outside these two TRs needs be sent and customized.

The representative of WCCB, BHQ gave a presentation on the activities of WCCB pertaining to preparation of tiger criminals' dossiers, status of uploading of wildlife crime cases by the tiger reserves in the WCCB website portal.

WCCB is also mandated to conduct the capacity building workshops for investigation, intelligence collection, use of technical surveillance etc. regularly in the tiger reserves of this region. However, funds constraint is a major issue to carry out such programs in a regular manner. The concerned Chief Wildlife Wardens / FDs of the tiger reserves are requested to conduct such training programs on capacity building and other activities in association with WCCB.

During these presentations, the detailed discussions / deliberations were held and the major outcomes / action points of the meeting are as under:

- a) Submission of online APOs in the NTCA application by the concerned Tiger Reserves along with corrected UC / Physical Financial report and other relevant documents at the earliest.
- b) Pending tiger mortality cases from the period 2012 to 2017 have to be submitted as per the SOP of NTCA dealing with tiger death and disposal of tiger / leopard carcass / body parts at the earliest (9 (2012-1, , 2014-1, 2016-1, 2017-6) cases of UP pending , 1 case of Rajasthan (2017-1) and 12 cases of Uttarakhand (2015-1, 2017-11).
- c) Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP) from Rajaji and rectified (after incorporating comments of NTCA) TCP from Pilibhit & Ranthambhore at the earliest.
- d) Constitution of Tiger Conservation Foundations of Pilibhit, Dudhwa, Mukundra Hills & Rajaji.
- e) Status of constitution of STPF of Sariska, Corbett & Dudhwa to be informed.
- f) Submission of rectified Eco-Sensitive Zone proposals of all tiger reserves of Rajasthan, Dudhwa and Pilibhit.
- g) M-STripes patrolling module implementation and registration for online visualization of patrolling data.
- h) Submission of layouts information of line transect, camera traps and Phase-I & Phase-III data of All India Tiger Estimation, 2018 to NTCA at the earliest.
- i) Submission of updated status of filling up the vacancies required from the Tiger Reserves of Northern Region.
- j) Uploading of the wildlife crime cases on WCC web portal by the Tiger Reserves and sharing of its analysis by WCCB, BHQ, New Delhi.
- k) Status of unified buffer control as per the advisory of NTCA is to be submitted in respect of Rajaji and Pilibhit.
- l) Submission of the proposal of voluntary village relocation for the year 2018-19 in the prescribed format with due diligence, check list, DBT details from the tiger reserves of this region.

The concerned Field Directors / their representatives present in the meeting were briefed for taking up the urgent necessary action on the above action points. The ADG (PT) & Member secretary concluded the meeting with his concluding remarks. He instructed all the FDs/DFDs of the tiger reserves to carry out the activities as per the schedule/protocol to ensure successful and timely completion of AITE, 2018. He also instructed to complete preparation and submission of pending TCPs and to submit the proposals for notifying the eco-sensitive zones for the remaining Tiger reserves. He also emphasized to carryout study of the corridor linkages and to nominate suitable nodal officers for the better management and protection of corridors in this region. He emphasized the need of compliance of SOPs of tiger death & dealing with body parts in all the tiger mortality cases & to ensure the disposal of pending cases at the earliest. The meeting ended with acknowledgements to the Chair & to the participating officials.

