

QUARTERLY JOURNAL

stripes

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3rd STOCKTAKING CONFERENCE ON TIGER CONSERVATION



TRAINING OF TRAINERS (ToT) / CAPACITY BUILDING

TRANSNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE VISIT TO MALAYSIA



NTCA APPRAISAL / SUPERVISORY VISITS / OTHER EVENTS



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



India while supporting around 2/3rd of global wild tiger population, is committed to supplement the efforts of Tiger Range countries to double tiger population by 2022 that began in St. Petersburg Tiger Summit of 2010. Accordingly, this Authority in collaboration with GTF held 3rd Stocktaking Conference on 28-29 January 2019 in New Delhi which is a latest collective efforts by 13 tiger-range governments to achieve that goal.

Dealing with human-wildlife interaction is an important and prioritized agenda of this Authority and as part of capacity building of field veterinarian and frontline officers to deal with the burgeoning Tiger-Human negative interaction in the central India with special emphasis to State of Maharashtra, a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on immobilization, restraint, rescue and rehabilitation of Tiger was held from 21 to 23 February 2019 in Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra.

The 15th Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held on March 8, 2019 under Chairmanship of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Chairman NTCA in New Delhi.

Other important issues that are covered in this first quarterly magazine of this Authority *inter alia* includes visit of Indian Delegation in collaboration with GTF to Malaysia Priority Tiger Areas, tour/supervisory visits of officials from the NTCA Hqrs and its regional offices as part of implementation of guidelines/SOP of Project Tiger.

I commend efforts of all officials to bring out this issue of the magazine and I hope this issue of "Stripes" (January- March 2019) will be of immense use in disseminating the activities under Project tiger/NTCA for the readers.

Dr Anup Kumar Nayak
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Session in progress during the 3rd Stocktaking conference on tiger conservation

3rd STOCKTAKING CONFERENCE ON TIGER CONSERVATION (28-29 JANUARY 2019)

The 3rd Stocktaking Conference on tiger conservation was held on 28-29 January 2019, at the SCOPE Complex, New Delhi. This was organized by the Global Tiger Forum, as an implementing arm of the Global Tiger Initiative Council (GTIC), in collaboration with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (Government of India), Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT), Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and WWF.

The conference is the latest collective step in the process that

began at the 2010 St Petersburg Tiger Summit - where 13 tiger-range governments committed to Tx2 - an ambitious goal to double the global wild tiger population by 2022.

The two-day conference included country updates on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of Tiger Range Country specific National Tiger Recovery Program (NTRP), and technical presentations on themes such as protection, habitat/prey/tiger recovery, management of human

wildlife interface issues, smart green infrastructure, habitat, field management, conservation finance and partnerships. Apart from this, there were four Side Events, viz. reviewing of the Sub/continental level Tiger estimation for India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. Maximizing synergies of partnerships for tiger conservation, combating wildlife trafficking issues and a discussion on contours of strategy for conventions (CITES). Tiger-range governments agreed on the urgent need to address critical gaps

across the tiger range through a set of recommendations.

Recommendations Towards 2022

Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) made a commitment to double tiger numbers by 2022. This is the last stocktaking meeting before that deadline. In order to ensure that TRCs are moving towards the target they had set for themselves some critical actions need to be put into place immediately.

Habitats

While several TRCs have been able to secure additional habitat for tigers, forest loss and fragmentation continues to be a concern in many TRCs. Linear infrastructure is one of the main factors leading to fragmentation.

Therefore, corridor protection and management should be given the highest priority.

Tiger Population Assessment

While the methodology for tiger estimation is being implemented by several TRCs, there is a need to implement the countrywide assessment protocol for a more realistic assessment of tiger status where it has not been done yet.

Therefore, TRCs need to update the status of tiger population using state of the art estimation methods to monitor the status of tiger for supporting management inputs and identifying realistic site-specific gaps.

Prey

Adequate prey is key to tiger

recovery. In many TRCs, this is the highest priority but assessing and augmenting the prey base is still lagging behind.

Therefore, simple & robust approaches for assessing prey abundance and occupancy need to be developed and systematically applied in TRCs.

Protection & Management

Many TRCs are now implementing SMART/MSTrIPES and other Law Enforcement Monitoring approaches although capacity for protection on the ground remains a critical gap in most TRCs.

Therefore, TRCs should prioritise sites with greatest recovery potential and focus efforts in key sites to get them to a minimal level of protection and management.



Felicitations of Hon'ble Minister, MoEF&CC by ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA)

Policies & Land use

Most TRCs have legal protection for tigers and habitats. However, the implementation of these policies remains weak. In addition, tigers in some TRCs are moving beyond PA boundaries and these populations need targeted policies.

Therefore, TRCs should work towards synergising broader land use and specific tiger conservation laws and policies.

Human Tiger Conflict (HTC)

Some TRCs are facing a high level of conflict and are implementing a range of measures to address this. At the same time, TRCs with low tiger numbers or those planning reintroductions need to prepare for potential conflict. Unaddressed HTC can lead to both loss of tigers and loss of support for tiger conservation.

Therefore, TRCs with high levels of conflict need to move from reactive mode to implementing proactive, systemic and scalable solutions to conflict management

Poaching & Illegal Wildlife Trade

The demand from consumers in global market is a continuing concern. This is exacerbated by the fact that transnational organised syndicates are involved in poaching & trafficking.

Therefore, TRCs should prohibit all trade, including domestic

trade, in tiger parts including from captive bred sources and amend legislation to prohibit captive breeding of tigers for commercial purpose and share actionable information with law enforcement agencies in relevant TRCs and transit countries.

Investment

While some TRCs have stepped up investment for tiger conservation, funding remains a critical gap for many countries. Additional funding may be needed when taking a landscape conservation approach into account.

Therefore, agencies need to step up funding for tiger and other endangered species conservation particularly for critical sites/countries with potential for recovery.

Supporting Recovery Efforts in South East Asia

While populations seem to be going well in some TRCs, mainly South Asia and Russia, tiger populations in other regions need to strengthen tiger recovery efforts.

Therefore, TRCs and partners should set up and fund a 'South East Asia Tiger Revival Consortium' consisting of donors, technical experts, NGOs, and governments to develop and implement a Tiger Recovery Master plan to put these tiger populations on a recovery path.

Meeting held in context of Sub-

Continent level Tiger Estimation On side-lines of the 3rd Stocktaking Conference on Tiger Conservation in New Delhi on January 28, 2019, a meeting was held under Chairmanship of the Additional Director General of Forest (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA). The meeting was attended by officials from Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal and India.

A presentation was given by the National Conservation Authority on decisions taken during meeting held with tiger range countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan & Nepal on December 12, 2017. This was followed by a status update on fourth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation, 2018 of areas in India adjoining tiger occupied regions of Bangladesh, Bhutan & Nepal. It was finalised to form a strategy on the way forward so as to come out with the sub-continent level report. Consistency of methodology for analysis, harmonization of data needs after sharing and developing a format for the sub-continent level report were also discussed.





Photo Credit: NTCA

Hands on training of equipments for veterinarians in ToT, at Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra

TRAINING OF TRAINERS (ToT): CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON IMMOBILIZATION, RESTRAINT, RESCUE AND REHABILITATION OF TIGER (21-23 FEBRUARY, 2019; PENCH TIGER RESERVE, MAHARASHTRA)

A three-day workshop was organized under the aegis of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) at Sillari, Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra from 21/02/2019 to 23/02/2019. The objective of the training was to impart training to the participants on Immobilization, Restraint, Rescue and Rehabilitation of Tigers.

Total number of participants was 36 (veterinarian:1, veterinary Officer:12, ACF:1, RFO:4, Rescue team member:1, Forester:5, RO:1, Forest Guard:1 and Police Constable:1).

Workshop was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak, ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA) along with APCCF (Protection), Maharashtra, Mr. B.S. Hooda, CCF & FD, Pench Tiger Reserve, Dr. Ravikiran Govekar, Forest Officers and representatives of the NTCA. The chief guest addressed the gathering and mentioned about key objectives of the workshop and appreciated the efforts taken by Maharashtra Forest Department along with WII and NTCA to arrange this workshop. He also discussed about the current human-animal conflict scenario across the country and role of this workshop to tackle such issues.

Overview on legalities related to capture, rehabilitation and mortality investigations with special reference to Tigers/provision of concerned SOPs:

In this session, legalities related to Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, along with SOP's of NTCA for capturing & rewilding of carnivores and disposing of carcass with pathological sampling were discussed by AIG, NTCA Dr. V.C. Mahtur. It was also emphasised that any issue related to capturing, rehabilitation & mortality needs to be dealt with proper permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden.



Photo Credit: NTCA

Monitoring and revival of tranquilised female Sambhar for ToT

also gave details of different trap cages, medicines and dosage required during capture. He put forth the thought of not capturing wild animals until a major injury is present.

Capturing Wild Felids: Options and Concerns by Dr. Parag Nigam, WII, Dehradun.

Approach for large carnivore conservation in India by Dr. Bilal Habib (Scientist E, WII).

A case study about Rescue & Rehabilitation of Tigers by Dr. Akhilesh Mishra (Veterinary Officer, Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh)

Human wildlife conflict and its mitigation with special reference to large felids- case studies of Maharashtra:

The Field Director, Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra discussed about the problems local people face in Maharashtra from wild life

and also deliberated about the schemes made for local people regarding rehabilitation and compensation. This was followed by presentation by Dr. Parag Nigam, Scientist- F, WII wherein he discussed few case studies regarding tiger & leopard injury & recovery in nature itself. He

Field demonstration exercises about the various equipments related to rescue, restraint and tranquilization were done. Dummy targets were kept for the purpose of the exercise.



Photo Credit: NTCA

Hands on training of field staff in ToT, at Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra



Photo Credit: NTCA

**15th MEETING OF THE NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY (NTCA)
(8 MARCH, 2019, NEW DELHI)**

The 15th Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held on March 8, 2019 under Chairmanship of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Chairman, NTCA in Mahanadi Conference Hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi.

The Hon'ble MEF&CC/Chairman NTCA welcomed the participants and highlighted the experience of the new members which should aid in shaping tiger conservation policy in the country. He emphasized on the fact that India has a leadership role in Tiger Conservation across the globe

which is being appreciated and at the same time being critically watched by the world.

The salient features of the meetings are given below:

Action taken on the minutes of the 14th Meeting of the NTCA.

As stressed by the Chairperson in meeting, "Grant-in-Aids" and budget allocated in Project Tiger allocated to NTCA has been fully utilized in 2017-18.

All SOPs and Advisories issued by the NTCA are ensured to be adhered to, by supervisory visits by Regional Offices and mechanism

of Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE).

A Committee has been constituted to give recommendations to enhance package for voluntary relocation from Core / Critical tiger habitats of Tiger Reserves which *inter-alia* include convergence of Government Schemes. This committee has received inputs from the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) which are in process of being incorporated.

As far as finalization of Tiger Mortality cases is concerned, at present pendency is 10% (55 of total 554 cases since 2012 to 2017).

There is already a provision of dovetailing of schemes at the state level with voluntary village relocation.

Approval of budget/ expenditure schedules for the year 2017-18

The Authority unanimously ratified the form of financial statements together with balance sheet, income and expenditure account, receipts and payment statements and Audit Report.

The Authority was informed of the allocation of Rs. 1000.00 lakhs to the NTCA for the year 2018-19 and an expenditure of Rs. 887.00 lakhs incurred out of the Rs. 900.00 lakhs released to the NTCA.

Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, the Authority was apprised of a cent percent utilization of Rs. 34500.00 lakhs during the F. Y. 2017-18.

The Authority was informed of a utilization of an amount Rs. 29789.05 lakhs out of the Rs. 35000.00 lakhs allocated during the F. Y. 2018-19.

Delegation of powers to the Members Secretary - NTCA

The Authority approved delegation of powers to the Member Secretary, (NTCA) to incur expenditure on Civil Works up to an amount of Rs. 5,00,000/- from the present limit of Rs.50,000/-.

The Authority authorized the Member Secretary (NTCA) to utilize the NTCA “Grants-in-aid” fund for incurring expenditure on foreign travel by officials of the NTCA.

Issues referred by the NTCA Members

Difficulty in getting matching grant of 40% by state to deal with the wildlife-human negative interaction under CSS-PT and reverting back to earlier arrangement of Central-State share. **(Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh)**

An advisory to declare wild animal-human negative interaction as a natural disaster on the lines of Uttar Pradesh. **(Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam)**

Delays in release of funds under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger which seriously hamper salaries to the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF), and revisiting the Standing Operating Procedures issued by the NTCA in light of recent field experiences. **(Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra)**

Need of the NTCA to monitor status of notification of Critical Wildlife Habitats (CWH) as enshrined in the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 across States. **(Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs)**

Exploring the possibility of addressing damage due to negative human tiger interactions under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. In addition, he advised that the funding dispensation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme may be reviewed in consultation with the 15th Finance Commission. **(Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj)**

Tiger corridor areas should be within the Eco-sensitive zone of tiger reserves so as to ensure their integrity. As a mitigation measure, he suggested that linear infrastructure should be constructed underground. He also raised the issue of regulating pesticide use in and around tiger reserves. **(Dr. Anish Andheria, WCT)**





Photo Credit: NTCA

Delegates of transnational collaborative consultation-GTF Mission Visit to Malaysia

**TRANSNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE CONSULTATION - GLOBAL TIGER FORUM (GTF) MISSION VISIT TO MALAYSIA
12TH TO 17TH MARCH 2019**

Dr. Amit Mallick, IGF, representing NTCA, Govt. of India, was part of the Global Tiger Mission (GTF) led by Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Secretary General, GTF, Mr. Mohnish Kapoor, Head - Programme and Partnerships, GTF, Mr. Soumitri Das, USAID and Mr. Lam, GTF Administrator. The Mission had a detailed stock taking consultation meeting with the GTF Focal Point, Malaysia Dr. Shivanathan to get an update on the status of National Tiger Action Plan, Malaysia and its implementation. Pertinent aspects in the context of the federal structure and the State governance with regard to managing forest and wildlife areas was discussed and gaps in respect of centre - state cooperation was pointed out categorically by the focal point. The main issue with

regard to funding of the national parks, state parks is left with the State Governments, which, at present, is creating a distinct gap in managing and protection of the protected areas in the country. The Royal Belum State Park, Gerik and Perak's State Park Corporation are merely managed with limited funding received from the State. The range staff engaged in these parks is bare minimum, vis-à-vis, the area required to be protected and, thereby, unable to control the poaching related protection issues at the field level. The overall structural changes in administration and management at the national level for flagging the issues for consideration at the national level was also discussed during the meeting.

The GTF Mission had a consultation meeting with WWF, Malaysia at the headquarters. A detailed presentation was made by Dr. Mark, Head, WWF, Malaysia, deliberating upon the corridors and linkages in the tiger sites and the kind of shrinkages, which have happened over the years, reasoning out concerns, which need to be addressed to carry forward tiger agenda in the Malaysian context.

The Mission attended the consultative meeting chaired by Dr. Xavier Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources, Malaysia and Secretary General, KATS, DG and other senior officials in the government department. A detailed discussion with regard to

the tiger recovery in Malaysia was held and a presentation was made by the Head of the Mission during the meeting.

During the deliberations, priority actions were also dealt upon and suggested, as follows: -

a. In order to set the house in order, committed funding support from federal and state governments (60:40) would be required.

b. Boots on the ground will have to be the motto and thereby stepping up protection. Immediate action would include engaging army / police though an MoU and suitable orientation.

c. Also engaging local work force and giving remuneration will have to be explored.

d. Stepping up protection infrastructure in vulnerable areas would be equally important.

e. An active revival of opportunity, as per the National Tiger Action Plan with focus on micro cores will have to be initiated.

f. Creating stakeholder agenda with a landscape approach and master plan will have to be prioritised.

g. Creating an endowment fund / trust fund to address funding to meet cost will also be required.

h. Trans-national actions and engagement will also have to be given priority.

i. For continuous facilitation,

a GTF programme office in Malaysia was also indicated.

j. Hon'ble Minister and Secretary General of KATS were invited to visit India so as to experience the management and good practices being undertaken in India. This could be facilitated through GTF-WWF collaboration.



Photo Credit: NTCA

Participants from the NTCA and GTF for transnational collaborative consultation-GTF Mission Visit to Malaysia

APPRAISAL/SUPERVISORY VISITS BY THE NTCA HQRS OFFICIALS TO THE TIGER RESERVES/LANDSCAPE

Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve: 22.01.2019-23.01.2019

Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak, ADG (PT) & MS, NTCA visited Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve between 22.01.2019 and 23.01.2019 and had discussion with Field Director, Deputy Director RTR on various issues, viz. tiger monitoring, village relocation and works under Annual Plan of Operations etc and details of observations during the tour are given below:

1. Monsoon Tourism

Carrying capacity for tourism calculated by park authorities as 280 vehicles per day.

4 lakhs tourists visit the park annually.

Erstwhile core areas of the Park remain closed during monsoon for 3 months, viz. July to September.

There are 10 tourism zones operating in the entire tiger reserve out of which 5 zones are closed during monsoon as stated above and rest 5 zones are still operating in the core during monsoon against the advisory of NTCA. This should be complied with immediately.

2. All India Tiger Estimation

It was appraised that only areas under tiger reserves are being assessed for tiger estimation this cycle which should have covered all potential tiger habitats.

According to Tiger Cell the number of camera traps placed as per Phase III protocol appears to be less than compared to previous cycle of assessment. It was advised to check the data and get back to NTCA for any possible rectification.

3. M-STriPES

Patrolling module of M-STriPES has not been implemented by the field staffs as yet.

However, patrolling is being monitored through HEJJE module. It was advised to shift to M-STriPES without delay.

4. Tiger Conservation Plan

Queries raised by NTCA on the draft Tiger Conservation Plan of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve needs to be complied at the earliest. It was also suggested to incorporate caracal conservation as part of the theme zone, due to its very small population in Ranthambhore.

5. Phase-IV monitoring

As per Phase IV monitoring taken up during 2017, there are

48 tigers for which photographic documentation is going on.

This needs to be continued more so for dispersing tigers.

6. Core

Total area of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve is 1345 sq.km., out of which core area is 1030 sq.km. and the rest 315 sq.km. is buffer.

It was appraised that there are still 60 villages inside the core, for which efforts are on to relocate which should be expedited following due procedure.

7. Ramgarh-Bishdhari Sanctuary

Ramgarh-Bishdhari Sanctuary is located adjoining the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, which is looked after administratively by DFO, Kota.

It was advised that this area should either be brought under tiger reserve or under the unified control of Field Director for better management.

**Gujarat Forest Department,
Sasan Gir: 26.02.2019-
27.02.2019**

Dr. Amit Mallick, IGF, NTCA

visited Gujarat between 26.02.2019 and 27.02.2019 and had discussion with PCCFs and CWLWs in the light of the recent camera-trap photographs of a tiger from Santrampur forest area. Monitoring protocols being followed and the required amount of assessment and technical knowhow required was also discussed. The CWLW, Gujarat informed that the required monitoring had been initiated and would be sending a proposal for technical assistance from NTCA, which needs to be followed up.

Unfortunately, the day after the discussions, the said tiger was reported to be found dead in about 15 Km. from where it was seen. The CWLW, Gujarat was given the necessary guidance with regard to the SOP to be followed and detailed report in respect of the death of the tiger. It is necessary to analyse the pathway/ passage used by the said tiger, as the presence of the tiger has opened up possibilities of such dispersal in future as well. It would be in the fitness of things to continue to keep the area under a coordinated inter-State monitoring so as to have a better understanding of movement of big cats in future. The SOP for inter-State coordination to strengthen the tiger conservation is required to be activated amongst the State of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra so that more efforts get into the management of tiger at the landscape level. All concerned States need to be taken up on board for jointly coordinating the

issue of inter-state tiger dispersal and movement.

Kerala Forest Department (Consultation with CWLW, CCF (Wildlife) and other concerned officers of Kerala): 28.02.2019 to 02.03.2019

Dr. Amit Mallick, IGF, NTCA visited Thiruvananthapuram and attended detailed consultation meeting with CWLW, Kerala with regard to the recent communication with the State on the proposal for declaring the tiger reserve in Wayanad landscape in Kerala. It was emphasized that the Bandipur-Mudumalai-Wayanad landscape holds the highest density (570) of tigers in the world and, therefore, bringing Wayanad landscape in Kerala, which harbour one of the best tiger habitats, needs to be brought under the 'Project Tiger' umbrella more so to get CSS funding support, enabling better management and long-term sustenance at the landscape level. The CWLW, Kerala has initiated the process and would be sending a formal proposal to NTCA.

Detailed discussions on acquisition of Panchakanam Estate in Periyar Tiger Reserve were also held, as a follow up to the earlier interactions. The detailed evaluation and beneficiary details required, as per norms, was discussed and issues related to management due to presence of the estate inside the Periyar Tiger Reserve was emphasized. The State would be submitting a formal proposal after getting the

required details, as per norms within a month's period.

The details pertaining to All India Tiger Estimation, pending verification was also discussed with concerned officials and the same was facilitated to be submitted to the Tiger Cell in the Wildlife Institute of India. Data pertaining to Calicut and Thiruvananthapuram Divisions were pending the same was assured to be furnished to Tiger Cell at the earliest. Progress of implementation of M-STripes in the tiger reserves and in the adjoining areas was also discussed. The efforts being made by the State is promising and M-STripes Patrol Module would be greatly benefitting the protection initiatives in the State, once M-STripes is made fully functional.

Rajaji Tiger Reserve , Uttarakhand: 09.03.2019-10.03.2019)

Shri Nishant Verma, DIG, NTCA visited Rajaji Tiger Reserve on 09.03.2019-10.03.2019 and details of observations during the tour are given below:

1. Meeting with the Field Director, Rajaji:

It was emphasized the the capacity building of the field formations be done for the compliance of SOPs of NTCA dealing with tiger death, disposal of Tiger / leopard body parts / carcass and dealing with emergency situations arising for the straying of tigers in Human dominated landscapes. Also, the

activities for AITE, 2018 were inquired and it was emphasized to submit Phase-I & Phase-III data as per the timelines decided in the NTCA regional meetings and the Field Directors, Chief Wildlife Wardens meeting conducted on 19.11.2018 at New Delhi. Also, the submission of village relocation proposal (if any) from the tiger reserve as per the NTCA format was emphasized.

2. Implementation of M-STriPES Patrol app: Since, M-STriPES Patrol app is not yet functional in the tiger reserve, it was suggested to have a handholding training session of field staffs by M-STriPES team of WII.

3. Tiger Augmentation Project: Koelpura area of Motichur range was inspected it was found that a team has been constituted for tiger monitoring and the documented patrol / monitoring reports were seen. It was emphasized that M-STriPES patrol and ecological module should be used for patrolling and ecological monitoring. This area is not having villages nearby and with protection inputs can be potential habitat / choice site for proposed tiger supplementation in western Rajaji. It was suggested that the TR management should undertake the pre-release activities / preparations including active communities' engagement as per the guidelines of the NTCA and the supervisory constituted team of the NTCA shall be reviewing the preparedness very soon.

4. Tourism in the tiger reserve: Tourism in Chilla range was reviewed and it was found that at present, the Gypsies operating in Chilla tourism zone are provided by EDCs viz. Kasan and Ganga Bhogpur Malla and the canteen at Chilla is also run by EDC. The forest track open for tourists is 36 kms long and around 45 Gypsy are operational on daily basis. It was emphasized to estimate carrying capacity for vehicle-based tourist visitation and come out with effective permissible carrying capacity to be incorporated in the TCP of RTR.

5. General: The joint patrolling with the official of Haridwar Forest Division and exchange of intelligence / information sharing on periodic basis was emphasized. It was advised to submit the draft TCP of RTR incorporating the suggestions / action taken points given by NTCA in the last TCP meeting held at NTCA Hqrs without any further delay.

Odisha Forest Department and Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Odisha: 22.03.2019-26.03.2019

Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak, ADG (PT) & MS, NTCA visited Bhubaneswar and held discussion with Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha on implementation of M-STriPES, submission of APOs 2019-20 for Satkosia, Similipal and Sunabeda proposed tiger reserve, Convening of a landscape level meeting for Sunabeda Tiger Reserve and actions to be taken at Satkosia in

response to NTCA's letters dated 9.11.2018 and 11.12.2018 before proceeding to Satkosia Tiger Reserve. During the 2-day trip to Satkosia, following observation are made:

1. Monitoring of resident tigress: While interacting with staff of Athagarh and Satkosia Divisions, it was evident that the staff of Athagarh Division are not intensely involved in monitoring and supervising the movement of the tigress although the tigress spends more than 30% of its time in the Division during a month. Therefore, it was urged upon them to constantly hold periodic meetings of the concerned staff, step up foot patrolling in all vulnerable and inaccessible areas and ensure that deficiencies in patrolling are plugged at the earliest.

2. Augmentation of prey base: It was advised to augment the prey base in Tulka-Katrang and Majhipada-Baghamunda sub landscapes as proposed in the project, as the above areas appear to have very low prey base apart from the fact that sambar population is negligible in the entire tiger reserve.

3. T-1 tigress

T1 tigress kept in enclosures has now been allowed to move between both the enclosures as apprised by DFO Satkosia. Rewilding of the tigress need to be taken up following the SOP issued by this Authority to deal with orphaned/abandoned tiger cubs and old / injured

tigers in the wild at the earliest to make the animal fit for release.

4. M-STripES

Monitoring protocols across the landscape need to be strengthened with active involvement of staff of all the 5 divisions. M-STripES has started being implemented in the tiger reserve. Field Director, Satkosia Tiger Reserve is urged to look at the patrolling pattern and take remedial measures to cover each and every inaccessible area in the landscape through foot patrolling.

5. Vacancy:

It was apprised that about 30% of posts of frontline staff are vacant at present. It was advised to engage young educated local villagers for special protection activities, which will not only provide them employment but also aid in winning back the trust of the locals.

6. General:

It was urged upon the Field Director, Satkosia Tiger Reserve and his DFOs that all out efforts should be made to win the trust of the local villagers and opinion

leaders as a priority through continuous communications, as the present efforts seems to be inadequate.

Rigorous patrolling and supervision be resorted to cover the entire Satkosia Tiger Reserve through M-STripES without any delay.

Capacity building of the staff for the entire landscape need to be taken up at the earliest for which NTCA is willing to facilitate.



Important meetings in the NTCA Hqrs, New Delhi under Chairmanship of ADG (PT) & MS, NTCA	
Date	Subjects
21.1.2019	Meeting in context of finalizing the All India Tiger Estimation, 2018 Participants were the NTCA officers and Scientists from WII, Dehradun. Broad framework of AITE 2018 report and timeline for the report preparation were finalised.
23.1.2019	Meeting in respect of WP (Civil) No. 202/1995 reg. Constructions for providing facilities to the pilgrims at Sabarimala located within Periyar TR, Kerala. It was attended by the CWLW, Kerala, FD, Periyar and representative from Sabarimala Devasthanam Board and all possible aspects of the facilities to the pilgrims were discussed.
13.2.2019	Meeting with officials from the GTI/GTF/Clemson University wherein the future scope of collaboration between the NTCA and Clemson University were discussed.
22.2.2019	Meeting to deliberate upon standardization of primers for generating a referral genetic database for tigers in the country which was attended by Scientists from CCMB, Hyderabad, WII, Dehradun and NCBS, Bengaluru and it was decided to finalize the number of primers for use in tiger all across the country uniformly.
12.3.2019	Draft report prepared on "study on Economic Valuation of TR in India: Phase II" was discussed for finalization for 10 tiger reserves of the country. It was attended by the Representatives from the IIFM, Bhopal and officials from the NTCA, New Delhi.

**APPRAISAL/SUPERVISORY VISITS BY THE OFFICIALS OF THE NTCA
REGIONAL OFFICES TO THE TIGER RESERVES/LANDSCAPE**

NTCA, Regional Office, Nagpur		
Date	Place of visit	Subject
22.01.2019	Gadchiroli	-SEC Railway site appraisal
19.01.2019 to 20.01.2019	Nagpur	-Reconciliation of AITE data
05.02.2019 to 08.02.2019	Kolhapur/Sahyadri	-Inter-Agency Co-ordination Meeting and Supervisory visit organised by the WCCB. - Supervisory field visit of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve
10.03.2019 to 12.03.2019	Bhubaneswar	-Reconciliation of data from All India Tiger Estimation
13.03.2019 to 14.03.2019	Ranchi	Reconciliation of data from All India Tiger Estimation



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Inspection of PIP- Supervisory visit of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra



Photo Credit: NTCA

Inspection of Camp - Supervisory visit of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra



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Inspection of waterhole- Supervisory visit of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra

NTCA, Regional Office, Guwahati		
Date	Place of visit	Subject
07.01.2019- 13.01.2019	Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary and Anini, Arunachal Pradesh	-For facilitating the deployment of Camera traps, Scat collection and Polygon Search Method in the Dibang WLS for All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) exercise. - Attended a meeting called by the Deputy Commissioner, Anini to address the concerns of the Idu Mishmi Elite Society (IMES) members and to make them participant in the on-going AITE exercise.
17.01.2019 to 20.01.2019	Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, West Bengal	-Supervisory field visit of Sunderbans Tiger Reserve for discussions with the forest department on various issues pertaining to the management of the Tiger Reserve
15.02.2019 to 16.02.2019	Orang Tiger Reserve, Nameri Tiger Reserve, Assam	Supervisory field visit
17.02.2019 to 18.02.2019	Pakke Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh	Supervisory field visit
12.03.2019 to 14.03.2019	Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh	-Training workshop on AITE, Itanagar for all tiger bearing forest divisions of Arunachal Pradesh. -Highlighted the importance of the concurrent monitoring by using MSTRIPES application and on the need to check poaching and other wildlife related crimes.



NTCA, Regional Office, Bengaluru		
Date	Place of visit	Subject
04.01.2019	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	- Attended the inter-agency coordination meeting organized by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
07.01.2019	Mancherial, Telangana	- Site appraisal of proposal involving diversion of 5.7414 ha of forest land for four laning of NH 363 from Mancherial to Chandrapur.
07.02.2019 to 08.02.2019	Kawal Tiger Reserve, Telangana	- Supervisory Visit to Kawal Tiger Reserve
13.02.2019	Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu	- Visit to Kalakkad Mundunthurai Tiger Reserve in connection with All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) data verification
15.02.2019	Thiruvananthpuram, Kerala	- Attended the meeting of High Power Committee for Sabarimala Master Implementation
16.02.2019	Periyar Tiger Reserve, Thekkady, Kerala	Attended AITE data verification work at Periyar Foundation and halt at Thekkady.
26.02.2019 to 27.02.2019	Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka	Field visit for assessing the forest fire damage.
27.02.2019 to 28.02.2019	Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu	Field visit for assessing the forest fire damage.
19.03.2019	Thiruvananthpuram, Kerala	Attended High Power Committee (HPC) meeting on implementation of Sabarimala master plan implementation at Government guesthouse, Thycaud, Thiruvananthpuram.

STRIPES
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