

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

F. No. 15-3/2023-NTCA

Dated: 26.06.2023

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Minutes/ Summary records of the 23rd Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority held on 29.05.2023 - regarding

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith minutes/ summary records of the 23rd Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority, as approved by the Hon'ble MEF&CC/ Chairman, NTCA, which was held on 29th May, 2023 at Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, for kind perusal and record.

Encl: As above



(Md. Sajid Sultan)

Asstt. Inspector General of Forest (NTCA)

Email: aig2-ntca@nic.in

Tel. (EPABX): + 91 11 24367837-39

Distribution:

1. All NTCA Members/ Participants (List enclosed).

Copy for kind information/necessary action to:

1. PS to Hon'ble MEF&CC
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS, EF&CC
3. Sr. PPS to Secretary, EF&CC
4. Sr. PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
5. Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh
6. IGFs/DIGF/AIGFs, NTCA HQ and Regional Offices, Bengaluru, Guwahati and Nagpur
7. The Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
8. Deputy Director (Finance), NTCA, New Delhi.
9. PS to ADG (PT & E) & MS (NTCA).

List of NTCA Members

S.No.	Name/Designation and Address
1	The Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2	The Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
3	Ms. Diya Kumari, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)
4	Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
5	Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
6	Shri S.S. Srivastava, Former PCCF & HoFF, Odisha
7	Shri Rahul Bhatnagar, Former Field Director Ranathambore Tiger reserve, Udaipur, Rajasthan
8	Shri Ravi Singh, Secretary General, WWF-India, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi
9	Dr. Roop Narayan Mandwe, M.B.B.S., D.C.P. Consultant Pathologist, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
10	Dr. Pradeep K. Malik, Former Senior Professor - Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
11	Shri W. Longvah, Former IGF (NTCA), Regional Office, Guwahati, Bashishta Chariali, Guwahati, Assam
12	Dr. H.S Negi, Former APCCF (WL), Madhya Pradesh
13	Dr. Madhu Verma, Former Faculty Member, IIFM, Bhopal
14	Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
15	Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
16	Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
17	Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
18	Chairperson, National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes
19	Chairperson, National Commission for the Scheduled Castes
20	Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj
21	Director, Wildlife Preservation, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
22	Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan
23	Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha
24	Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu
25	Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand
26	Chief Wildlife Warden, Mizoram
27	Chief Wildlife Warden, Chhattisgarh
28	Joint Secretary and Legislative Counsel, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice
29	Additional Director General of Forests (Project Tiger), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**Minutes / Summary records of the 23rd Meeting of
National Tiger Conservation Authority**

Held on May 29, 2023

**Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal
Madhya Pradesh**

23rd Meeting of NTCA:

The 23rd Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held on 29th May, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Sh. Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & Chairman NTCA at Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The list of members/participants is at **Annexure-I**.

The Agenda wise discussions were as here under;

A) Agenda - 1: Updates on activities of NTCA.

The ADG (PT & E) & Member Secretary (NTCA) formally welcomed the participants and initiated the proceedings by updating the members with respect to the below-mentioned updates on the activities of NTCA:

- i. The mega-event of Commemoration of Project Tiger, in Mysore, Karnataka.
This included highlighting the reports released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister viz. The Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) Summary Report, All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) Summary Report 2022, Amrit Kaal Ka "Tiger Vision", and the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).
- ii. The detailed report of the Management Effective Evaluation Exercise (MEE) & All India Tiger Estimation 2022 shall be released during Global Tiger Day 2023.
- iii. The vision plan outlines the requirement of the NTCA towards facilitating the active management of Tigers, from high-density areas to low-density areas.
- iv. The "in-principle" approval was accorded for the creation of the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.
- v. The recently approved Tiger Conservation Plans (TCPs) are as below:
 - Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh
 - Amangarh (Buffer area of Corbett Tiger Reserve), Uttar Pradesh

- Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan
 - Orang Tiger Reserve, Assam
- vi. Documentation of waterfalls & Historical sites in tiger reserves is being done and the document shall be released during the Global Tiger day 2023.
 - vii. The NTCA is coming up with a single-window system allowing the public to access the genuine websites of tiger reserves for the purpose of Ecotourism and Booking.
 - viii. Resorts/Hotels around tiger reserves shall be provided with a Pug Mark rating to encourage eco-friendly and sustainable practices.
 - ix. ICFRE is working on a protocol to manage the menace of Lantana as an invasive species.
 - x. The Global Tiger Day celebrations are likely to be held at Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand.

Decision: The Authority took a note of it.

1. Inputs from Ms. Diya Kumari, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha):

- i. Requested to revisit the direction of closure of Tiger Reserve for a day in a week, as this is impacting revenue generation. Alternatives for easing out tourism pressure to be explored such as the closure of zones etc.
- ii. The declaration of Kumbalgarh Tiger Reserve is required to be followed up and expedited.

2. Inputs from Sh. Sushil Kumar Modi, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha):

- i. The status of the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) in Tiger Reserves was enquired into.
- ii. Mechanisms to ensure smooth and timely flow of funds into the tiger Reserves.
- iii. The final notification of Kaimur as a Tiger reserve is still awaited. The matter should be expedited.

- iv. The number of tiger Mortality cases under scrutiny is very high. Such cases should speed up the final report.
- v. Made an observation that the tiger deaths in Madhya Pradesh are way more than in Karnataka, even though the tiger populations in both States are comparatively similar. The figure of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh combined contribute to 50% of mortality cases.
- vi. The Forest Guards have to face tough situations such as dealing with Mafias. Even though they are armed, they are scared to use weapons as this often leads to punitive actions against them. Laws such as in Assam, should be enacted to safeguard these officials from action while using weapons against the Mafias.

3. Inputs from Dr. S.P. Yadav, ADG (PT & E) MS (NTCA):

- i. It was explained by Dr. S.P. Yadav, ADG (PT & E) MS (NTCA) that the main reason why a large number of cases are under scrutiny is because considerable time is involved in investigating these cases. Forensic analysis is a time-consuming process that adds to the delay.
- ii. Moreover, all cases of tiger mortality are treated as poaching until and unless proven otherwise by the state.
- iii. At present there is no organized mafia operating in activities related to Tiger poaching. This ended with the arrest and subsequent death of the poacher Sansar Chand. Most of the Tiger mortality cases are due to electrocution, poisoning cases, or snares.
- iv. In all such cases immediate response follows with FIR, arrests, charge sheet, and subsequent inquiry as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- v. The WCCB maintains a database of wildlife crime pooled from the field level.

4. Inputs from Shri S.S. Srivastava, Member NTCA:

- i. Seeing the example of Parambikulam & Anamalai tiger reserves, newer methods for engaging with the communities and their subsequent weaning out from the system needs to be explored.

5. Inputs from Dr. H.S Negi, Member NTCA:

- i. The methodology of laying of sample plots started in the 1973s must be restarted. This can be an excellent way to observe changes in the habitat.

- ii. There needs to be particular emphasis on awareness and outreach programs with the stakeholders.
- iii. Use of technology such as AI systems will play a vital role in the management of tiger reserves, this should be practiced and encouraged in tiger reserves. Quoting the example of the Trail Guard AI system used in some landscapes, emphasized that the technology should be used at a widespread level to manage and handle human wildlife conflict.
- iv. Management of invasive alien species is crucial and must be prioritized.

6. Inputs from Sh. W. Longvah, Member NTCA:

- i. The proposal of Dibang to be declared as a Tiger Reserve is being revised and rationalization of the boundaries is being done.
- ii. The file for declaring Karbi Anglong as Tiger Reserves in Assam is also pending with the Hill Council and the state administration. A letter may be written to the state to expedite the process.
- iii. The process for relocation of villages from Namdapha Tiger Reserve may be expedited.

7. Inputs from Dr. Madhu Verma, Member NTCA:

- i. Highlighted the importance of completing the valuation of the Tiger reserves. It is important that this is used to signify the contribution of Tiger Reserves to the Green Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. The same can be used to seek financial support for these areas.
- ii. Wholistic planning is absolutely essential and the corridors must be included in such plans.
- iii. The local knowledge must be promoted and documented.

8. Inputs from Sh. Ravi Singh, Member NTCA:

- i. With the advent of AI systems, it is essential that steps be taken to ensure data security.
- ii. A vision to manage low or no tiger areas, and a workshop to focus on such areas.

9. Inputs from Dr. Pradeep K. Malik, Member NTCA:

- i. All Tiger Reserves are required to have permanent veterinary facilities like that in the tiger reserves of Madhya Pradesh.
- ii. The Tiger Reserves face considerable problems in procurement of drugs for the treatment of wild animals, particularly medicines/ drugs used for chemical immobilization/ restrain of an animal in distress that need to be rescued. It was suggested that procurement of such drugs may be done in a centralized manner, preferable at the Government of India level.

10. Inputs from Rahul Bhatnagar, Member NTCA:

- i. Suggested that all collars need to have an auto/remote drop facility

11. Inputs from Dr. Roop Narayan Mandwe, Member NTCA:

- i. Suggested that interest of tribals must be taken care in Tiger reserves, particularly with respect to settlement of the rights of these communities.
- ii. Settlement of Rights of the forest villages must also be done. It was assured by the CWLW MP that, forest villages are not being left out and are treated at par with revenue villages in terms of settlement of rights.
- iii. DGF & SS MoEFCC requested, Shri Mandwe, to share case wise data of forest villages where settlement of rights was not done.

12. Inputs from Shri Chinnaraja G Nadu, Ministry of Law and Justice:

- i. Raised the concern of handling of animals that stray into human habitation and are likely to run into conflict with humans.

Dr. S.P. Yadav, stated that, SOPs from NTCA are being followed in such cases and every step is being taken by tiger reserves to handle such situations.

13. Inputs from Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Naidu:

- i. Corridor connectivity between urban tiger landscapes and larger forest areas has to be maintained so that tigers can move from out of such urban areas to forests.
- ii. Good source population for reintroduction plans in low-density tiger areas ensuring genetic diversity.
- iii. Land use planning is extremely important.

- iv. People seem to have a higher degree of tolerance for tigers in these areas.

14. Inputs from Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand:

- i. Similar peaceful coexistence scenario was in Nainital, however, there was a sudden increase in conflict cases.
- ii. Awareness and outreach is the key to such problems
- iii. The tiger bearing territorial areas require funding. DGF&SS, MOEFCC stated that such areas can seek funds from CAMPA under the component of wildlife management.

15. Inputs from Chief Wildlife Warden, Chhattisgarh

- i. A primary response team in each village for faster mitigation is imperative, vigilant patrolling and APCs are very important.
- ii. Providing a green channel to expedite diversion of forest lands for the purpose of Village Relocation is to be looked into.
- iii. Habitat management in corridors should be minimal as such areas are meant only for safe passage of animals and not as places of permanent shelter. Such management should be a part of the working plan where areas of territorial division are involved as part of the corridor.
- iv. A workshop with FDs and architectures (National & International) for a NIC model

16. Inputs from Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan:

- i. The posting in wildlife areas must be incentivised to encourage staff to be posted in wildlife areas.
- ii. The traditional ways of avoiding the conflict should be restored, such as walking in groups, chanting hymns while passing through such areas etc.
- iii. Use of green vehicles must be encouraged inside tiger reserves

B) Agenda - 2: Launch of web-based application - T.R.I.P. (Tiger Reserve Information Portal)

The website was launched by Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. A brief presentation on the portal was done to showcase the data, intervention management and outcomes.

C) Agenda - 3: Issues discussed in Pre-meeting and Recommendations

The issues were discussed by individual members during the course of the meeting and the same has been covered under the previous discussion points of the participants

D) Agenda - 4: Action Taken Report:

ADG (PT & E) & MS (NTCA) briefed the Hon'ble chair with respect to the Action Taken Report of the 22nd Meeting of NTCA.

Decision: The Action Taken Report was approved by the Authority.

E) Agenda - 5: Status of Tigers (2022) - Appraisal and Update on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves in India - Fifth Cycle, 2022

i. **Tiger Status 2022:** ADG (PT & E) & MS (NTCA) gave a detailed Power Point Presentation on the status of the tigers and their habitat in the country as per the country as per the All India Tiger Estimation 2022 Exercise. The change of methodology from the pugmark technique to the current scientific phase-wise monitoring using camera traps was explained and highlighted to the member. The herculean efforts of the exercise such as the number of images processed and the transect efforts were emphasized and applauded.

ii. **Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE):** ADG (PT & E) & MS (NTCA) through a Power Point Presentation explained the overall exercise and methodology of the MEE exercise. A comparison was drawn on the results of the past cycles, highlighting the fact that the majority of the tiger reserves have shown improvement in rating with a few showing decline as well.

There were 12 Tiger Reserve in Excellent category, 20 Tiger Reserve in Very Good category, 14 Tiger Reserve in Good category, and 5 Tiger Reserve in Fair category.

F) Agenda - 6: Big Cat Alliance - Update

Dr. Amit Mallick, Inspector General of Forests (NTCA) updated the members regarding the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) as hereunder:

- i. Hon'ble PM announced the launch of IBCA on the occasion of commemorating 50 years of India's Project Tiger event , 9th April, 2023 Mrsuru, Karnataka.
- ii. Overarching objective is to create synergy through a collaborative platform for cooperation among big cat range countries, non range countries interested in big cat conservation, conservation partners, interested business and corporate groups and scientific organizations working in the field of big cat conservation to make a positive contribution in a collaborative manner so as to ensure viable populations of big cats across their ranges. There are 96 range countries.
- iii. A cabinet note has been initiated, all comments and recommendations from the PMO have been incorporated.
- iv. The timeline to establish the interim Secretariat is by July.
- v. Several range countries are supporting IBCA and are in the process of sending formal communication to join the IBCA.
- vi. A visit of the External Affairs Minister to Namibia and South Africa is due, an officer from the NTCA will be accompanying the Hon'ble Minister in this regard.

G) Agenda - 7: Approval of Annual Report and Annual Accounts for Financial Year 2022-23.

The ADG (PT & E) & Member Secretary (NTCA) informed that there has been 99% utilization of the budget sanctioned under Grants-in-aid and Grants-in-aid salaries during 2022-23.

Decision: The Annual Report and Annual Accounts for Financial Year 2022-23 was approved.

H) Agenda - 11: Proposed by Ministry of Tribal Affairs:

Compliance of the Forest Right Act, 2006, before declaring new areas under Critical Wildlife Habitats (if any).

The ADG (PT & E) & MS (NTCA) stated that the compliance of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 is being ensured at the field level.

Observation and comments from the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Chairman NTCA:

- i. The next meeting of the National Tiger Authority shall be held in the month of July during the Global Tiger Day 2023 at Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand.
- ii. Research work must be encouraged and emphasis should be made in coming out with quality research publications.
- iii. The tigers are protecting not just the territory but also the tributaries of the country. Emphasis is to be made to protect the sanctity of the core of the reserve. The habitat should be managed as naturally as possible, there must be least disturbance to the core.
- iv. Rights of tribals and other forest dwellers should be protected as per the Forest Right Act.
- v. In the next meeting, a presentation on the activities of SHGs is to be made.
- vi. In order to promote national production of veterinary medicines, avenues to be explored with pharmaceutical companies.
- vii. Possibility should be explored for manufacture of radio collars, camera traps etc. indigenously.
- viii. Temple tourism in Tiger reserves must be regulated appropriately. Wherever such tourism is presently going on, the same must be very meticulously and efficiently managed. Promotion of e-buses and other eco-friendly forms of transportation is to be done to reduce the anthropogenic impact in tiger reserves.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and Members.



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

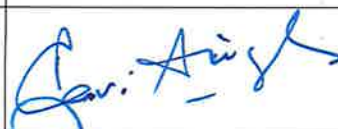
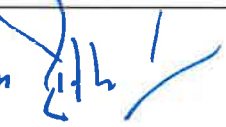
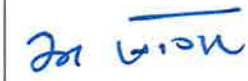






23rd Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority


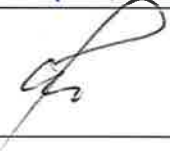

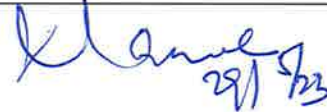

Pre-Meeting

IIFM Bhopal

Dated: 29th May, 2023

S. No.	Name & Designation	Organization	Mobile No.	E-mail I.D.	Signature
	Duyakumari (MP) LOKSABHA		9829050077		
	शुशील मोदी	MP	9431017530	sushilmodi@sansad.nic.in	
	S. S. Srivastava	Member NTCA Fmr. P cell & HOD Odisha	9437022453	sheo1957@gmail.com	
	DR. H. S. NEGI	MEMBER NTCA	9868521962	hinsmatifs@gmail.com	
	W. LONGVAH	NTCA Member	9411112621	wlongvah@gmail.com	
	DR. MADHU VERMA	NTCA Member	9300803479	madhuver10@gmail.com	

S. No.	Name & Designation	Mobile No.	E-mail I.D.	Signature
	RAVI SINGH, Secy. Gen & CEO, WWF India	98103-72632	ravisingh@wwfindia.net	
	PRADEEP K MALIK	9412998113	pkm.newforest@gmail.com	
	Rahul Bhatnagar IPS (R) Former CCF, WL, Udaipur	9414156229	rahulbuder@ yahoo.co.in	
	Dr. Roop N Mandave FRA activist Jabalpur	7828365666	roopnarayanmandave@ gmail.com	
	CHINNARAJA G NAIDU Legislative Department - MoLJ	9842709122	CGNAIDU.IPO@NIC.IN	
	M.S. Sultan	9797670930	aig2.ntca@nic.in	
	Kamdi Hemant Bhaskar AIGF NTCA RO Nagpur	9436211735	aigcentral-ntc@nic.in	
	Harini Venugopal AIGF, NTCA, RO, Bengaluru	9509437202	aigsouth-ntca@nic.in	
	ARINDAM TOMAR	9414112921	arindam.tomer@gmail.com	

S. No.	Name & Designation	Mobile No.	E-mail I.D.	Signature
	Sudhir Kumar Agrawal	9425209697	cw1wcy@gmail.com.	
	Dr. Samir Sinha	9411102075	cw1w-forest-uk@nic.in	
	R. Srinivas Reddy	9442525552	cw1w_wildlife3@yahoo.co.in.	
	N. S. MURALI	9432265753	igsanta-atca@nic.in	 29/7/23
	AMIT MALLICK			 29.05.23

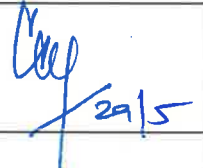
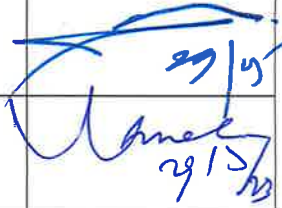
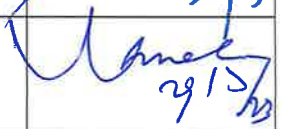













NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



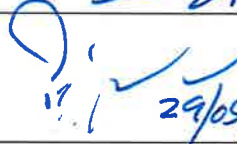





23rd Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority

IIFM Bhopal

Dated: 29th May, 2023

S. No.	Name & Designation	Organization	Mobile No.	E-mail I.D.	Signature
1.	C.P. Goyal, IES DGF&SS	MoEF&CC	9415202709		 29/5
2.	S.P. YADAV ADA (PT)				
3.	AMIT MALLICK IG(NTCA)				 29/5
4.	N.S. MURALI IGF/NTCA/20(S2)		9432265753		 29/5/23
5.	R. Shrinivas Reddy. CWLW, Tamil Nadu.				
6.	Dr. Samir Senha PCCF(W/L) & CWLW	Uttarakhand	9411102075		

S. No.	Name & Designation	Mobile No.	E-mail I.D.	Signature
7	Sudhi Kumar Agrawal CWLW CA.	9425209697	cwlwca@gmail.com	
8	Arindam Tomar CWLW Raj	9414112921	arindam.tomar@gmail.com	
9	J S Chauhan PCCF(CWL) & CWLW, MP	94253 03604	chauhanjs87@gmail.com	
10	Dr. K. RAVICHANDRAN Director, IIFM	9600333554	krcifs@gmail.com director@iifm.ac.in	
11.	Harini Venugopal AIGF, NTCA, RO, Bengaluru	9509437202	aigsonth-ntca@nic.in	
12.	Kamdi Hemant Bhaskar AIGF NTCA RO Nagpur	9436211735	aigcentral-ntca@nic.in	
13.	M. S. Sultan	9797670930	aig2-ntca@nic.in	
14.	Navin Kishore Kann, Scientist-F, NIC	9868825508	navinkk@nic.in	
15.	Chinnaraja G Naidu Legislative Department - M&L	9842709122	CGNAIDU.IPO@NIC.IN	

S. No.	Name & Designation	Mobile No.	E-mail I.D.	Signature
16	Dr Rupa Narayan Mandwe	7828365666	rupanarayanmandwe@gmail.com	
17	Rahul Bhatnagar SPS(R) Former CCF, WL, Udaipur (Ret)	9414156229	rahulbhatnagar@yahoo.co.in	 29/5/23
18	PRADEEP K MALIK	9412998113	pkm.newforest@gmail.com	 29/05/2023
19	Ravi Singh	9810372632	ravisinghe.wvjindia.net	 29/5/23
20.	DR. MADHU VERMA	9300803479.	madhuverma@gmail.com	 29/05/23
21	W. LONGVAH	9411112621		
22.	Dr. H. S. WEGI	9868521962.	hswegi@gmail.com	
23	S. S. SRIVASTAVA	9437022457	sh-01957@gmail.com	
24.	सुशील मोदी	9431017530	sushilmodi@sansad.nic.in	