

**F. No. 15-5/2024-NTCA**

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**  
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**Date:** As per esign**OFFICE MEMORANDUM****Sub: Summary record of 25th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority held on July 29, 2024-reg.**

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a copy of the summary record of the 25th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, as approved by the Hon'ble MEF&CC/ Chairman NTCA, which was held on July 29, 2024 at the Mahanadi conference hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi for kind perusal and record.

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**Distribution:**

1. All NTCA Members (list enclosed).

**Copy 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, EF&CC
5. PS to ADG (PT&E) & Member Secretary (NTCA)/ PA to IGF, NTCA.

**Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority held under Chairmanship of Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change on July 29, 2024 at Mahanadi Hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi**

The 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change on July 29, 2024 at Mahanadi Hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi. The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

The Chairman welcomed the participants and initiated the deliberations.

Details of agenda wise deliberations are as below:

**Agenda Item No. 1**

**Confirmation of minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting and observations received from Members**

The minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) were confirmed.

**Agenda Item No. 2**

**Action taken on the decisions of the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The NTCA took note of the action taken on the decisions made during the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NTCA.

**Agenda Item No. 3**

**Updates on activities of the NTCA**

1. Ratification of the decisions of the Technical Committee
  - a. 7<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee held on April 29, 2024
  - b. 8<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee held on July 3, 2024
2. Update on NBWL proposals

The Authority ratified and took note of the updates.

**Agenda Item No. 4**

**Approval of budget/ expenditure schedules of the NTCA for the year 2023-24**

The NTCA approved the budget/ expenditure schedules of the NTCA for the year 2023-24

## **Agenda Item No. 5**

### **Any other agenda with permission of the Chair**

#### 1. Remarks by Director, Ministry of Panchayati Raj

- It was informed that management of buffer areas of tiger reserves should be done in convergence with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI).
- The said Ministry has an ongoing program of capacity building which should be dovetailed with matters relating to tiger conservation.
- It was decided that details of tiger reserves shall be forwarded to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to include them in the said program. Further it was decided that a training capsule along with a video will be prepared by the NTCA within a month and will be sent to Ministry of Panchayati Raj for further needful.

#### 2. Remarks by Shri H. S. Negi

- The member informed that there are several areas in the country where the required welfare factors for harboring tigers are available that can be considered for notification as a tiger reserve. He gave the example of Anini in Arunachal Pradesh.
- With regards to tourism management, he mentioned that strict regulation as per the NTCA guidelines as well as its regulation through the Eco Sensitive Zone should be adhered to.
- The need to revisit the Tiger Conservation Plan guidelines in view of latest developments in the field of conservation is also in order.

#### 3. Remarks by Shri S. S. Srivastava

- The member informed that there is too much reliance on technology which has diminished fieldcraft that frontline staff used to possess earlier.
- However, technological aids are necessary to assist fundamental practices which needs to be adopted in territorial areas around tiger reserves and protected areas.
- The member raised the issue of forest fires, especially in areas outside tiger reserves, wherein accountability of frontline staff needs to be ensured through the use of applications like M-STrIPES. He mentioned that the tendency to involve other departments in managing fires rather than the Forest Department themselves had not yielded the desired dividends.

#### 4. Remarks by Shri Rahul Bhatnagar

- The member informed the need to develop a centralized portal for booking of facilities in tiger reserves which had been discussed in previous meeting also.
- The member highlighted commendable work in management of invasive alien species at the Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.
- The member stated that tourism outside the core area of tiger reserves should be factored in the tourism plan in the master plan of the Eco Sensitive Zone.
- In respect of notification of the Kumbalgarh Tiger Reserve, he elicited a response from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan that an Expert Committee has been notified by the State for the purpose

#### 5. Remarks by IGF, NTCA

- The IG, NTCA suggested that due diligence should be exercised while proposing notification of new tiger reserves as this results in resentment amongst people because of potential restriction of their rights. Further tiger conservation and management in Non Protected Area should be promoted so that sinks of the tiger population may be protected and managed professionally without bringing them under PA or TRs.

#### 6. Remarks by Shri Ravi Singh

- The member informed that there is a high turnover of tigers monitored by the States during the Phase-IV exercise every year. In addition, there is also a record of tiger mortality which is available with the NTCA. These sets of data should be invariably used for keeping a track of tigers which are not photocaptured in subsequent cycle.

#### 7. Remarks by Secretary, Environment, Forest & Climate Change

- The Secretary stressed on the need to have a dedicated eco-tourism plan which was driven as per guidelines of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- Emphasis should be laid on incorporating science-based interventions in day to day management activities.
- The Secretary appreciated the idea of capacity building of village *Sarpanch* through programs of Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

#### 8. Remarks by Vice Chairman, NTCA/ Hon'ble MoS, Environment, Forest & Climate Change

- The Hon'ble Vice Chairman informed members present about haphazard

development along the southern boundary of the Corbett Tiger Reserve which has blocked the animal corridor along the river Kosi extending into Ramnagar Forest Division.

- The need to explore the possibility of evolving a policy-based strategy to control mushrooming of these resorts should be considered in discussion with the States.
- He highlighted the need and importance of fire lines in fire control.
- In context of habitat management, he highlighted that removal of invasive alien species should be accompanied by replacement with indigenous species prevalent in the area.

#### 9. Remarks by Chairman, NTCA/ Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change

- The Hon'ble Chair remarked that apart from the technology the human skills and traditional knowledge of the local communities i.e. native wisdom needs to be gathered. A mix of technological intervention and traditional knowledge should be worked out for maximum outputs.
- Instead focus should be on exploring indigenous technology and how it can be used for benefit of tiger conservation. He gave the example of use of *Lantana* briquettes at cremation grounds and brick kilns, which can be used to address habitat management. Further roping in MSMEs in evolving technical solutions by using traditional knowledge should be explored by encouraging their locally evolved skill sets.
- Tiger reserve management needs to ensure that the sensitivity of stakeholders, especially in buffer and fringe areas of tiger reserves is enhanced periodically through awareness programs. Special focus should be given to local livelihoods.
- The Hon'ble Chairman remarked that to address haphazard development in buffer and fringe areas, the relevant permissions and provisions enshrined in law should be reiterated and communicated to all concerned.
- There is a need to review tourism in the most frequented tiger reserves to ensure that they do not degrade.
- The Hon'ble Chair suggested that the Secretary, EF&CC review fire protection strategies across the country.
- The Hon'ble Chair discussed the thematic areas outlined for discussion during the Field Directors conference schedule on July 29, 2024 with a need to discuss innovative mechanisms for addressing the gap between policy and field implementation.

#### Agenda Item No. 6

#### Releases

- Photographic documentation of 50 years of Project Tiger
- Decolonizing India's biodiversity: restoring indigenous ecosystems from alien invasions

The Chairman, NTCA desired to present the releases during the Field Directors conference organized on the occasion of Global Tiger Day.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the Member Secretary, NTCA