

F. No. 15-6/2023-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

Date: 21-06-2024

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub. : Summary record of the 24th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a copy of the summary record of the 24th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, as approved by the Hon'ble MEF&CC/ Chairman NTCA, which was held on February 29, 2024 at the Mahanadi conference hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi for kind perusal and record.

Signed by Vaibhav Chandra
Mathur
Date: 21-06-2024 15:08:56

(VAIBHAV CHANDRA MATHUR)
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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, MoEF&CC.
5. IGFs/ DIGFs/ AIGFs, NTCA HQ and Regional Offices, Bengaluru, Guwahati and Nagpur.
6. PS to ADG (PT) & MS, NTCA
7. PA to IGF, NTCA.

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SUMMARY RECORD OF 24TH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

The 24th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held on February 29, 2024, at the Indira Paryawaran Bhawan, Jorbagh, New Delhi under Chairmanship of the HMEFCC/Chairman NTCA.

At the outset, the ADG (PT&E) & MS (NTCA) welcomed the participants and outlined the agenda of the meeting. The meeting was attended by members as per **Annexure 1**.

Before undertaking the agenda items, the HMEFCC/Chairman NTCA released the following publications:

(i) Status of Leopards in India, 2022: India's leopard population was estimated at 13,874 (Range: 12,616 – 15,132) individuals, representing a stable population in comparison to the same area being sampled in 2018 with 12852 (12,172-13,535) individuals. This estimate represented the population of 70% of leopard habitat as the Himalayas and semi-arid parts of the country which are not tiger habitats, were not sampled.

(ii) Bridging the Gap: Unveiling Effectiveness of India's Tiger Reserve Management - (A Compilation of lessons learned from five cycles of Management Effectiveness Evaluation and All India Tiger Estimation). India has objectively assessed that our Tiger Reserves are well-managed due to various management strengths such as protection strategies, quality managerial support, prompt mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts, compliance of statutory requirements, and professionally prepared Tiger Conservation Plans among others.

(iii) Tigers Unveiled: A Bibliographic Odyssey (2019-2023): This bibliography holds immense significance for the conservation of tigers and serves as a vital resource for researchers and conservation practitioners engaged in this field.

(iv) Booklet on Project Cheetah: The booklet is an illustrative depiction of the conservation status of cheetah globally. It highlights the initiatives undertaken by the Government of India in successfully introducing cheetahs at the Kuno National Park in the world's first intercontinental wild-to-wild translocation.

(v) Cheetah ki Raftaar: A short audio-visual piece highlighting the cheetah as a symbol of India's progress in various sectors.

Subsequently, Agenda wise deliberations took place.

AGENDA 1

Updates on the Authority

The ADG (PT&E) and MS, NTCA apprised the Authority on activities undertaken since the 23rd meeting of the NTCA are as follows:

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| (i) Technical Committee of the NTCA | : 5 meetings were held on 4.8.23, 11.9.23, 9.10.23, 3.1.24 and 16.2.24 |
| (ii) Tiger Conservation Plans (TCPs) | : 3 TCPs of the Palamau, Panna and Similipal Tiger Reserves were approved |
| (iii) NBWL Proposals | : 182 proposals were scientifically assessed |

(As per Annexure)

The Authority ratified the same.

AGENDA 2

Action taken on decisions of the 23rd meeting of the Authority

The action taken report of the 23rd meeting of the NTCA was presented by the MS (NTCA), as follows:

S. No	Particulars/Decision	Action Taken
	DECISION/PARTICULARS TAKEN	
1	In the next meeting, a presentation on the activities of SHGs is to be made.	Data is being collated; Information from Tiger Reserves is being collected.
2	To promote the national production of veterinary medicines, avenues to be explored with pharmaceutical companies.	The matter has been initiated vide letter No. 15-3/2023-NTCA dated 09.06.2023. Dr. Pradeep K. Malik, Member NTCA is following up on the matter with the Pharmaceutical companies and related stakeholders.
3	The possibility should be explored for the manufacture of radio collars, camera traps etc. indigenously.	The matter has been initiated vide letter No. F.No. 15-3/2023-NTCA dated 09.06.2023. Dr K. Ramesh from the Wildlife Institute of India is following up on the matter with the manufacturers, Tiger reserves, and related stakeholders

The Authority took note of the above.

AGENDA 3

Update on NBWL proposals

The MS (NTCA) apprised the Authority that 182 proposals were scientifically assessed by the NTCA and placed in the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife since the last meeting. A list of the same is enclosed at **Annexure 2**.

The Authority took note and ratified recommendations made by the NTCA to the NBWL.

AGENDA 4

Agenda proposed by Shri Rahul Bhatnagar, NTCA

In response to the proposed agenda of Shri Rahul Bhatnagar, Member NTCA, it was

informed that “in-principle” approval had been accorded for notifying the Kumbalgarh Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan in the 2nd Technical Committee of this Authority was held on August 04, 2023. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan apprised the Authority that the said proposal was under review at the office of the Chief Minister, Rajasthan. Representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs highlighted that relevant provisions of the FRA, 2005 need to be kept in view while notifying a tiger reserve.

The HMEFCC/Chairman NTCA suggested that the member follow-up the matter with the State Government. He also highlighted that action has been taken for notifying the Ratapani WLS, Kaimur WLS and Dibang WLS in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh respectively for which follow-up action needs to be undertaken.

The Authority noted the above.

AGENDA 5

Agenda proposed by Dr. Roop Narayan Mandwe, NTCA

In respect of agenda proposed by Dr. Roop Narayan Mandwe, Member NTCA, the Chairman, NTCA stressed the need to adopt an occupation-based approach wherein traditional wisdom should be skilled up through skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling. The objective should be to develop a deep ecological sense rather than being tiger/cheetah-centric, which shall also be a more holistic approach.

Representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs stressed that involvement of tribal communities should not become prejudicial to their wellbeing. It was suggested that instructions may be issued from the MoEFCC that benefits accruing from various schemes should be provided to forest right holders in full measure.

The Authority took note of the above.

AGENDA 6

Pre-meeting visit to Satpura Tiger Reserve

The MS (NTCA) requested members to provide their observations and comments on their pre-meeting visit to the Satpura Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.

Dr. H. S. Negi highlighted the long-term and ongoing commitment of the State of Madhya Pradesh towards village relocation which was demonstrative at Satpura. Shri S.S. Srivastava remarked that the Satpura staff welfare society was working well and the model should be emulated in other tiger reserves and protected areas also. Shri Ravi Singh remarked on the excellent grassland management at Satpura Tiger Reserve while Shri Rahul Bhatnagar commented upon the successful village rehabilitation which created the space for undertaking habitat interventions. Shri Ravi Singh, Member NTCA suggested that being the golden jubilee year of Project Tiger, special focus should be given to the first 9 tiger reserves that were notified.

The Authority noted the above.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA

Agenda proposed by Shri S.S. Srivastava, Member NTCA

In respect of the agenda proposed by Shri S.S. Srivastava, the HMEFCC/Chairman, NTCA directed to circulate the points in respect of the functioning of Eco Development Committees as raised by the Member, to field formations and record their inputs.

Representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs highlighted some grievances in respect of village relocation from tiger reserves and suggested that necessary action should be taken to alleviate the same.

Professor Qamar Quershi, Professor, Wildlife Institute of India, presented the latest status of Leopards in India, 2022.

The Authority took note for required action.

REMARKS BY THE VICE CHAIRMAN AND CHAIRMAN, NTCA

The Hon'ble MoS/Vice Chairman NTCA reflected on the progress made in the field of tiger and wildlife conservation.

The HMEFCC/Chairman, NTCA emphasized adopting an area-based approach around the central pivot of tiger/tiger reserve to ensure holistic development of the entire region. He stressed the need to identify and map corridors connecting these areas so that there is widespread green development in the name of tigers and wildlife. He reiterated that the core zones need to be inviolate and all new activities should be prohibited which *inter-alia* included tourism which should be carried out with the existing facilities and no new facilities should be undertaken.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by the MS (NTCA).

**Signed by Vaibhav Chandra
Mathur**

Date: 21-06-2024 15:11:21