

MINUTES OF THE 10th MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD FOR WILDLIFE HELD IN THE
CONFERENCE HALL OF THE CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICE, DISPUR ON 22.02.2018.

Members present: List enclosed as Annexure 1.

The 10th meeting started on the arrival of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam and Chairperson of the State Board for Wildlife, Assam. At the outset the Hon'ble Chief Minister & Chairperson, the Hon'ble Minister of Environment & Forests etc & Vice Chairperson on the dias were felicitated. Following that the respected members of the board introduced themselves. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Assam welcomed the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam and Chairperson of the State Board for Wildlife and the Minister Environment and Forests etc. Government of Assam & Vice Chairperson of the State Board for Wildlife and all other members of the board.

The Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests etc. Government of Assam & Vice Chairperson of the State Board for Wildlife addressed the board with a brief account on the objective of the 10th meeting.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam, and Member Secretary SBWL presented issues listed in the Agenda for discussion with the permission of the chair.

(a) Leave of absence :

- (1) Sri Mrinal Saikia, MLA, Khumtai.
- (2) Sri Pradan Borua, MP, Lakhimpur
- (3) Representative of Armed Forces (Govt. of India to nominate)
- (4) The Director, Wildlife Preservation, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (5) The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Uttaranchal.
- (6) The Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkatta, West Bengal.
- (7) Sri Pronay Bordoloi, Journalist
- (8) Sri Bhupendra Nath Talukdar, Retd. DCF
- (9) Dr. A.U Choudhury, IAS, the Rhino Foundation for Nature in North East-India.
- (10) Dr. P.C. Bhattacharjee, Retd. Professor Guwahati University

(b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the 9th Meeting of the SBWL held on 20.09.2016

The minutes of the 9th Meeting of SBWL was taken up for discussion which had already been circulated to all the Hon'ble Members of the Board by the Member Secretary. The Board confirmed and recommended the minutes.

(c) The action taken report on the recommendation of the 9th Meeting of the SBWL which was circulated to all and were open for discussion.

The PCCF, WL & CWLW and the member secretary presented the action taken report of the 9th meeting of State Board for Wildlife held on 20.09.2016 and the discussion proceeded as below.

1. **Diversion proposals of North Eastern Coalfields, Coal India Ltd Tikak extension open cast project (72.00 Ha.)**

The State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal in its 9th meeting. The Govt. of Assam requested Coal India Limited, User Agency to furnish compliance report in regards to diversion of 72.00 ha. Of Forest Land. But the report from the User Agency was still awaited. The Board advised Member Secretary SBWL & PCCF, WL & CWLW, Assam to send reminder to the Coal India Limited for submission of compliance report as asked by the Govt. of Assam at an early date so that the proposal can be forwarded to the MoEF & CC for early clearance by the SC-NBWL.

2. **Diversion of 98.59 ha in Saleki PRF under Digboi Division for Tikok OCP Coal mining project by North Eastern Coal fields, Coal India Limited, Assam.**

The physical verification report conducted by CF, EAC, Jorhat was discussed in the meeting and as the site was found to be located just on the boundary of the 10 Km radius from the Dehing Patkai WLS it was considered falling within the Eco-Sensitive Zone. After deliberation on the matter the board recommended the proposal subject to compliance to a set of mitigation measures as suggested by the Expert Committee.

3. **Application for Wildlife Clearance from Standing Committee of NBWL for drilling 7 (seven) numbers of wells in the vicinity of Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary [OIL].**

The State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal in its 9th meeting for two sites his LOC 101 & LOC LT1 subject to compliance to the mitigation measures as suggested by the Expert Committee.

The proposal has been forwarded to MoEF & CC, GoI for placing before the SC-NBWL for necessary clearance vide Govt. letter No. FRW.14/2016/2000, dtd. 14.02.2018.

The board has advised the PCCF, WL & CWLW, Assam to take up the matter with MoEF & CC for early placing before SC-NBWL with a copy to User Agency for necessary pursuance.

4. **Rehabilitation of Dodhia and Laika Forest villages of Dibru Saikhowa National Park to be carried out at an early date.**

The matter was discussed in the meeting and the board advised the PCCF & HoFF, Assam to make further communication to Govt. of Assam for considering the rehabilitation of Laika and Dodhia Forest Village at an early date.

5. **The status of Reserve Forests and Proposed Reserve Forests and to take immediate action to notify the PRFs to RFs.**

The matter was discussed in the meeting and the board advised the PCCF & HoFF, Assam to direct the concerned DFOs to take up the matter with concerned authority for early action in this regard.

6. Uploading the Agenda and Minutes of meetings in Departmental Website so that the members can access the same easily for their perusal.

The member of the board discussed the matter and agreed upon.

New Proposal for 10th meeting of the State Board for Wildlife, Assam

- 1. Proposal for diversion of 208.807 Ha. Forest land for construction of 400 KV D/C (Quad) Jigmelling-Alipurduar Transmission Line in the State of Assam.**

The PowerGrid Corporation of India Ltd., User Agency has submitted the Proposal online on 06.07.2017. Subsequently concerned DFOs of Kachugaon, Haltugaon & Chirang Division has submitted their respective report online. The Field Director Manas has also furnished his views.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam has uploaded necessary comments on 05.12.2017 online alongwith the hard copy to the Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Environment & Forest Department.

Mr. Khampa Borgoyari, Deputy Chief of BTC stated that the proposed power transmission line coming from Bhutan should be passes through one route for proper management of Biodiversity of the Protected Area.

The proposal was placed in the 10th meeting of the State Board for Wildlife and after thorough discussion the board recommended it subject to compliance to the conditions suggested by the PCCF, WL & CWLW, Assam. The proposal may be sent for consideration by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife, Govt. of Inida.

Appointment of Honorary Wildlife Warden

Section 4 (1)(bb) provides for appointment of Honorary Wildlife Warden and these appointees shall be subordinate to the CWLW as per Sec. 4 (3) of the WL (P) Act, 1972 and also deemed to be public servants within the meaning of Sec 21 of the Indian Penal Code. The guidelines issued by the Govt. of India prescribe criteria for selection and suggests that such appointment should be generally with the recommendation of the Advisory Board constituted under section 6 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Accordingly nominations from concerned DFOs of each district were received and one name per district as per guidelines was placed before the State Board for Wildlife.

The Members examined the names and recommended appointment of 25 Honorary Wildlife Warden for concerned districts.

The Board also authorized the CWLW, Assam for collecting nomination of remaining districts and place before the Hon'ble Vice Chairman of the Board for approval.

The list of recommended Honorary Wildlife Wardens for 25 districts is enclosed and marked as **annexure-II**.

Other matter with the permission of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam &
Chairperson of the State Board for Wildlife.

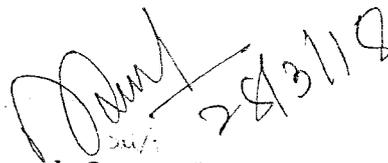
1. **Eco-Sensitive Zone :** The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam & Chairperson of the State Board for Wildlife suggested that the department should arrive at a consensus with the people living in the fringe of Protected Area before preparing proposal for eco-sensitive zone.
2. **Elephant Corridor:** The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam & Chairperson of the State Board for Wildlife suggested to properly identify all the track used by elephant to cross Railway track/Road which are vulnerable to dashing and to take up the matter with concerned Authority for construction of overpass/underpass for giving safe passage to wild elephant to avoid accidents in future.
3. **Restoration of Elephant Habitat:** Being seriously concerned to the current status of man-animal conflict in the State the Hon'ble CM advised the Forest Department to take necessary steps for restoring habitats wherever necessary so that the traditional elephant movement range becomes suitable for use by elephants and reduce the conflicts in human habitation. Sri Khampa Borgoyari, Hon Deputy Chief of BTC & Hon'ble Member of SBWL stated that the movement of elephants from Manas NP in the east to the forest of Chirang RF to the west has been highly threatened due to loss of forests and habitats along the Gelephu road even though there has been sporadic record of movement in the Deoshree section. He has requested WWF India to identify a corridor to connect these patch of forests so that the east west connectivity for elephants from Manas to the Chirang forests near the Deoshree area can be restored by the forest department and the government.
4. **Tiger Reserve in Karbi Anglong :** The CEM of Karbi Anglong and Hon'ble Member of the board has proposed for creation of a Tiger Reserve in Karbi Anglong covering all the Protected Area of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council . It was also proposed for creation of a wildlife division for the existing six Protected Areas of Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council.
The member of the board agreed with the proposals and requested the council authority to process the proposals soon.
5. **Creation of a Battalion for Manas Tiger Project :** The Khampa Borgaoyari, Deputy Chief of BTC & Hon'ble Member of SBWL suggested for raising a APFP battalion for protection of Manas National Park which will create employment opportunity of local youth as were who are otherwise presently working through NGOs for protection and Conservation of Biodiversity of Mans Tiger Project.
The hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam & Chairperson of the Board has agreed to the proposal & suggested for submission of such proposal observing necessary formalities through the concern authority early.
6. **Rhino Day :** It is agreed in the meeting that a special day will be observed as a "Rhino Day" throughout the State to create awareness as well as promote involvement of people living in the fringe of rhino bearing area for better conservation & protection of **State Animal**

Rhino The Environment & Forest Department will take necessary steps to notify a suitable date for observation of Rhino Day w.e.f. the current calendar year it self.

7. **Institute of Wildlife Health and Research Centre in Assam:** Dr. Khushal Sarma, Professor Vety. College of Science and Member of the board proposed for establishment of Institute of Wildlife Research and Health Centre in Assam to facilitate study, research, training, and treatment of wildlife animal diseases.
The Hon'ble CM, Assam and Chairperson of the Board agreed upon the suggestion and requested Member Secretary of SBWL & PCCF, WL & CWLW and College of Veterinary Science, Assam to take step in this regard. He also advised to find out the best such institution presently available in the world and prepare proposal.
8. **Inclusion of Wildlife Conservation in School Syllabus:** Sri Gautam Uzir, Advocate hon'ble member of the board has suggested for inclusion of Wildlife Conservation in School Syllabus of Assam to create awareness among the school students for wildlife conservation.
The members of the board have agreed on his proposal and requested Member Secretary of SBWL & PCCF, WL & CWLW, Assam to take up the matter with Education Department.
9. **Watch Tower :** The Managing Director, Assam Tourism Development Corporation stated that the corporation had fund for construction of 18 (eighteen) Nos, of watch tower at suitable location of National Park & Wildlife Sanctuaries' for promotion of eco tourism.
The Hon'ble CM, Assam and Chairperson of the Board suggested that the tower to be established by the ATDC should be for multipurpose use such as tourism promotion, conservation of wildlife and accommodation of frontline staff of forest department having facility of all required amenities.
Sri Khampa Borgaoyari, Deputy Chief of BTC and Hon'ble Member of the board requested to allot at least 5 such watch tower for Manas National Park.
The PCCF, WL & CWLW, Assam has requested the Managing Director, ATDC to communicate his office for early action on the matter for its early implementation. The Members of the Board present in the meeting has agreed with the proposal.

(d). Comments from the Hon'ble Chief Minister & Chairperson of the Board:

The Hon'ble Chief Minister & Chairperson of the Board expressed satisfaction over the proceedings of the meeting. He urged that the member of the SBWL should visit the place of occurrence of accidents caused during man-animal conflict as a confidence building gesture particularly amongst the effected people and advised to have frequent meetings of the SBWL.



(Sarbananda Sonowal)
Chief Minister, Assam
& Chairperson State Board for Wildlife, Assam.