

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Department of Wildlife Protection
Srinagar / Jammu**

**MINUTES OF 2ND MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD FOR WILDLIFE HELD ON
03.02.2012 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER,
J&K STATE IN THE MEETING HALL, 2ND FLOOR, CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU**

The 1st meeting of the State Board for Wildlife was held on 21st December, 2009 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The list of the members and others who were present in the meeting is at **Annexure-I**.

In the beginning the Commissioner / Secretary Forests welcomed the Chairman and Members formally and invited the Member Secretary of the Board to present the Agenda before the Members. The meeting started with the review of the Agenda of the 1st Meeting of State Board for Wildlife in order to apprise the Board of the progress made since 1st meeting held on 21.12.2009. Following decisions were taken:

Agenda No: 1 Review of agenda of 1st meeting of the State Board for Wildlife:

1.5: Determination of Settlement of Rights in the National Parks and Sanctuaries:

The Board was apprised of the progress made in this regard so far. The Commissioner / Secretary Forests informed that despite various meetings taken with the Assistant Commissioners Revenue (Collectors) and subsequent follow up by the Chief Wildlife Warden, the progress made with regard to Determination / Settlement of Rights is far from satisfactory. In view of the directions passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the matter, the Board recommended that an advisory be issued to the Government to deal with this matter in a time bound manner. To monitor this, the Commissioner/ Secretary Forests stated that the matter will be taken up with the Chief Secretary.

1.9: Matters relating to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

The Board recommended that for exchange of information with regards to wildlife crime a mechanism should be put in place in the Wildlife Protection Department.

1.10: Identification of Critical Wildlife Habitat including constitution of functions of expert committee, scientific information required and resettlement and matters incidents thereto:

The matter was discussed threadbare. It was observed that even though there were no guidelines on the subject of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the legal issue of notifying Critical Wildlife Habitats can be postponed. The identification of Critical Wildlife Habitat was important in view of the management of critically endangered species and the process of identifying these areas need to be taken up. The representative of the Botanical Survey of India intimated that under the Biodiversity Act, fifteen critically endangered species had been identified in J&K. The Board recommends that the process of identification of Critical Wildlife Habitats should be taken up by the Government.

1.11: Strengthening of Wildlife Protection Department:

The Board was informed of the present status with regard to the available manpower vis-à-vis the territorial jurisdiction of the Wildlife Department and the additional mandate of man animal conflict and settlement of compensation in favour of victims. The Board was also appraised of the staff strength for protected areas in some other States. The problem of stagnation of various levels was also brought to the notice of the Board. The Commissioner / Secretary Forests informed that a comprehensive proposal had been submitted to the Government and phase-I i.e. creation of four divisions had been taken up with the Planning and Finance Departments by the Administrative (Forest) Department. The Board recommended that the Government examine the proposal for strengthening of Wildlife Protection Department.

Agenda No: 2 **Proposal for Wildlife clearance of 7.60 hectares for setting up of Asia's largest Solar Telescope by India Institute of Astrophysics Bangalore near Pangong Lake in Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, Ladakh:**

The Board was informed of the decision taken by the committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary constituted by the Board to examine the case following the Environment Impact Assessment / EMP study. In view of the sensitive ecology and wilderness of the Pangong Lake, it was decided that the proposal be deferred and the user agency be advised to search for alternative sites like Hanley etc.

Agenda No: 3 **Proposal for laying of 132 KV D/C Hiranagar - Battal - Manwal Transmission Line passing through Surinsar - Mansar Wildlife Sanctuary:**

The proposal was discussed and the Board decided to recommend the proposal to the National Board for Wildlife for its consideration and approval.

Agenda No: 4 **Establishment of Industrial Estate Ghatti in proximity of Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary Kathua:**

Some of the members wanted to know whether the user agency have made any efforts to examine the location of the project at alternate sites. It was also observed that the Environment Management Plan needs to be revisited for further recommendations as it was generally observed that the recommended conditions were not usually followed by the User Agency.

It was recommended that this important exercise be done and the certificate of non-availability of appropriate land may be provided by the Competent Authority. The Board also recommended that the case be placed before the Standing Committee.

Agenda No: 5 **Setting up of passenger ropeway project in Bahu Conservation Reserve from Mubarak Mandi to Mahamaya to Shahabad:**

The proposal was discussed and the Board recommended the case to National Board for Wildlife for its consideration and approval.

Agenda No: 6 Shifting of Sheep Breeding Farm from Dachigam National Park:

The chairman observed that it is strange that despite the Cabinet Decision of 2005, the Sheep Breeding Farm had not been shifted. Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh expressed the need to shift the sheep breeding farm from Dachigam National Park in view the threat to Hangul – the State Animal from the diseases as well as to provide adequate shelter to them in winter when they come down to lower Dachigam.

It was decided that though a Local Level Committee has recently been formed, to identify alternate site a High Level Committee should monitor the shifting of Sheep Breeding Farm from Dachigam National Park and it should be ensured by the Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department that it is shifted by the time of opening of Darbar at Srinagar in the first week of May, 2012.

Agenda No: 7 Revision of entry fee and rates charged for shooting of films and documentaries in the Protected Areas of the State:

The Board was apprised of the provisions of sharing of proceeds with regard to the fee earned from the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries of other States. The other States have recognized that such practice is required to be adopted for the benefit of the people who are staying on the periphery of these National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries as it gives to them a sense of ownership. The Board recommended that the Government may examine the proposal keeping in view notifications and orders of the other States.

Agenda No: 8 Delegation of powers to the Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife:

After examining the provisions of the J&K Wildlife Protection Act, the Board agreed to delegate the powers with regard to selection and management of the areas to be declared as Protected Areas Section 7 (a) (i). It was also decided that the Standing Committee may also be delegated powers with regards to Section 7(C) i.e review, from time to time, the progress made in the field of wildlife conservation in the State and suggest measures for its improvement and cause to be published, the Wildlife Report of the state at least once in every three years.

Agenda No: 9 **Revision of rates on compensation on account of loss of life / incapacitation and injuries to human being due to man wild animal conflict.**

The Board was apprised of the decision taken in the Standing Committee in the 3rd and 4th meetings and took note of the recommendations with regard to proposed increase quantum of compensation.

The Board recommended that the Government may examine the quantum of proposed enhanced compensation and may issue necessary orders after due process.

Some of the Board Members also raised the issue of compensation on account of livestock due to Leopard and Bear attacks. The member secretary informed that the issue was already under consideration and a pilot study is proposed to be taken up in selected areas in collaboration with WWF.

Supplementary Agenda: Notification of Eco Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries:

The Board was apprised of the progress made by the Department in the matter of identifying the Eco Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries. The Board approved the proposal for making the local committees broad based by involving more stakeholders at local level and recommended that the Government may issue necessary instructions in this regard.

Miscellaneous Issues Raised with the Permission of chair:-

1. The Army Authorities raised the issue of clearances in Ladakh keeping in view of strategic location and national security. The Board observed that while there was no denying this fact, the necessary procedures should be followed by the Army Authorities.
2. Dr. M.K. Ranjit Singh, President Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) suggested to include a member from Ladakh region to give representation to that area as Ladakh forms the Major Wildlife Conservation Area. Board agreed and recommended to the Government to include one prominent member from Ladakh region.

3. Further, Dr. M.K. Ranjit Singh, President Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) also raised the issue of use of Kalak Tartar Road in Ladakh passing through the importation habitat of Tibetan Gazelle, by the ITBP, though it was an assurance given by Ministry of Home Affairs while the proposal was discussed in 14th meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife. The Board observed that whatever conditions are agreed at the time of recommendations of the proposal should be adhered to by the user agency.
 4. Chowdhary Mohammad Rafiq Boken, Member of the State Board for Wildlife raised the issue of conflict of domestic animals and wildlife during grazing in forest areas and stressed that the young and educated from forest dwellers community can play a positive role in conflict resolution between man and wild animals and they should also be provided opportunity in such conflict resolution squads. It was taken note of by the Board.
 5. Shri P.P. Sharma, IFS (Retired) Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden raised the issue of development of wetlands of Jammu region specially Gharana Wetland and Surinsar – Mansar. The Board observed that the issue should be looked into by the concerned authorities.
- Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-
(A. K. Singh) IFS
Member Secretary
J&K State Board for Wildlife/
Chief Wildlife Warden

No: WLP/SBWL/II/6/2012/494-523

Date: 09.03.2012

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action of all the members of State Board for Wildlife:

1. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister for the information of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
2. Special Assistant to Hon'ble Forest Minister for information of the Hon'ble Forest Minister.
3. Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, J&K State for information of the Chief Secretary.
4. All concerned officers.

List of Members

1. Shri Mian Altaf, Hon'ble Forest Minister, J&K State
2. Shri Ravinder Sharma, Hon'ble MLC
3. Dr. M. K. Ranjit sinh, Chairman, Wildlife Trust of India
4. Shri Pankaj Chandan, Representative, WWF for Nature - India
5. Shri P. P. Sharma, Retired PCCF & CWLW
6. Shri Shafat Ahmad, Retired PCCF & CWLW
7. Chowdhary Gulzar Bajar, R/o Rezin Kangan
8. Chowdhary Mohd Rafiq Boken, R/o Jindra Tehsil, Jammu
9. Shri Shantmanu, Commissioner / Secretary, Forest Department
10. Shri Suresh Chugh, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Central representative of PCCF, J&K
11. Shri M. Yasin, Additional Secretary representative of Commissioner / Secretary, Social Welfare Department
12. Shri Atal Duloo, Commissioner / Secretary, Tourism Department
13. Shri Shaleen Kabra, Commissioner / Secretary, Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department
14. Shri G S Salathia, IGP, Armed Police / IR Jammu representative of DG Police
15. Brigadier Rakesh Sharma, Representative of GOC-in-C, Northern Command
16. Shri Showkat Ali, Director, J&K Fisheries Department
17. Shri Ishwar Singh, Conservator of Forests (Central), representative of ADGF, Gol, MoEF
18. Dr. S. K. Srivastava, Representative, Botanical Survey of India
19. Smt Avtar Kaur, Representative, Zoological Survey of India
20. Shri A. K. Singh, Chief Wildlife Warden J&K

Besides above the following officers were also present:

- 1) Shri B. B. Vyas, Principal Secretary to HCM
- 2) Shri Deepak Khanna, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
- 3) Shri Upendra Pachananda, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Jammu
- 4) Shri Anil K Raina, HoD, Environmental Science, Jammu University
- 5) Shri M. Muazzam, Managing Director SIDCO
- 6) Shri Ajay Gupta, Chief Engineer & EO PDD
- 7) Shri Fida Ali, OSD to HCM (Media)
- 8) Shri Jigmet Takpa, Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Ladakh
- 9) Prof. T. P. Prabu, Dean, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore
- 10) Col. Kuldeep Chander, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore