

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
Wildlife Protection Department  
Srinagar**

**MINUTES OF FIRST MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF STATE  
BOARD FOR WILDLIFE J&K HELD ON 11.03.2010**

The first meeting of the Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) was held under the chairmanship of Jenab Mian Altaf Ahmad, Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Wildlife, Environment and Ecology on 11.3.2010 in his office chambers. A list of delegates who attended the meeting is at Annexure.

The meeting started with a brief background on the constitution of the Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife, its role to assist in the implementation of recommendations of the Board or matters delegated to it. Presently the Standing Committee of SBWL may consider proposals of diversion of Protected Area land and make recommendation / approval on any other matter delegated to it by the Board. This was followed by discussion on Agenda items.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.1**

**Upgradation of Sidhra-Surinsar-Mansar Road from existing single to intermediate lane passing through the Surinsar-Mansar Wildlife Sanctuary:**

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal involved upgradation of road constructed prior to the notification of the area as Sanctuary and was required to be improved to cater increased volume of traffic and better connectivity to people of villages residing in the area besides exploiting tourism potential of Surinsar and Mansar lakes. Out of the total length of 38.5 km, 6.55 km falls in the sanctuary and involved use of 1.437 ha. of the Sanctuary as a result of widening. An amount of Rs. 143.153 lacs has been provided by the Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA) for implementation of Environmental Management measures in the Wildlife Sanctuary.

Besides the conditions imposed by Chief Wildlife Warden, the members pointed out that conditions with regard to ownership of land staying with the Wildlife Department, the permission for tarring of the road in wildlife area being not taken as precedence for having tarred roads in other wildlife areas, the barriers on the road to be managed by Forest / Wildlife Department, the littering of sanctuary area with plastics / non-biodegradable substances shall be avoided at all costs and their removal shall be done at the cost of user agency be also included. The fuel wood / energy needs of the labour will be met by the user agency at its own costs and that no fuel wood collection / bush cutting be resorted by the labour of the user agency.

The additional conditions suggested by the Board members were agreed to and it was decided to recommend the proposal to National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).

## **AGENDA No. 2**

### **Revision of entry fee and rates charged for shooting of films and documentaries in Protected Area of the State:**

The revised proposal prepared by the Wildlife department was discussed with members observing different opinions on the matter. Some of the observations are as under:

- 1) Different agencies are charging fees for entry for different categories which needs rationalization. Examples of Sonamarg, Overa-Aru, Pahalgam were cited.
- 2) The fee should not increased specially if it was not serving a greater cause of wildlife conservation and being collected merely for revenue.
- 3) There was need for having different rates for groups particularly school children.
- 4) The rates provided for guides should be clubbed with ordinary rates and there should be process of registering guides from within the local people.
- 5) The Wildlife Warden may also accompany the school children to explain the bounties of nature, the biodiversity and its importance.
- 6) Voluntary donations at the entry gates can also be considered as a measure to enhance returns from the Sanctuaries / National Parks.
- 7) There should be a mechanism of creating a revolving fund / Conservation fund with the amount so collected for utilizing it for the benefit of the National Park / Sanctuary.

The proposal regarding revision of entry fee and rates charged for shooting of films and documentaries in Protected Areas of the State has been referred to the Finance Department.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

**Sd/-**

Chief Conservator of Forests  
Wildlife / Ecotourism  
Member secretary

No: WLP/Tech/St.Committee/2010/76

Dated: 03.06.2010

Copy for information to members of the Standing Committee for State Board for Wildlife in continuation to Administrative Department endorsement No. FST/WL/18/2010 dated 01.06.2010:

1. Shri Abdul Gani Vakil, Hon'ble MLC
2. Commissioner / Secretary, Forest Department, J&K
3. Commissioner / Secretary, Tourism Department, J&K
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K

5. Secretary, Revenue Department, J&K
6. Chief Wildlife Warden J&K
7. Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, Chairman, WTI, New Delhi
8. Shri S. D. Swatantra, IFS, Retired PCCF
9. Director, Forest Protection Force J&K
10. Chairman, Wildlife Conservation Society
11. Special Assistant to the Hon'ble Forest Minister for information of the Hon'ble Minister.

**LIST OF MEMBERS AND OTHER OFFICERS PRESENT IN THE MEETING**

1. Shri Abdul Gani Vakil, Hon'ble MLC
2. Shri Irshad A. Khan, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
3. Shri Ejaz Iqbal, Secretary, Revenue Department
4. Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, Chairman, WTI, New Delhi
5. Shri S. D. Swatantra, IFS, Retired PCCF
6. Shri Lal Chand, IFS, Director-Forest Protection Force J&K
7. Shri Altaf Hussain, Additional Secretary, Tourism Department
8. Shri Kaleem Ahmad, Board Member WECS
9. Tushar K Sharma, Special Secretary, Forest Department
10. Shri M M Gupta, Director, ERA
11. Shri O P Khullar, Dy.P.M. ERA
12. Shri Tahir A Shawl, WLW Jammu East Kathua
13. Smt Ifshan Dewan, WLW Headquarters
14. Shri Deepak Khanna, IFS, CCF-Ecotourism / Wildlife (Member Secretary)

**EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF FIRST MEETING OF THE STANDING  
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Besides the conditions imposed by Chief Wildlife Warden, the members pointed out that conditions with regard to ownership of land staying with the Wildlife Department, the permission for tarring of the road in wildlife area being not taken as precedence for having tarred roads in other wildlife areas, the barriers on the road to be managed by Forest / Wildlife Department, the littering of sanctuary area with plastics / non-biodegradable substances shall be avoided at all costs and their removal shall be done at the cost of user agency be also included. The fuel wood / energy needs of the labour will be met by the user agency at its own costs and that no fuel wood collection / bush cutting be resorted by the labour of the user agency.

The additional conditions suggested by the Board members were agreed to and it was decided to recommend the proposal to National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).