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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

O.A.No. 1158OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF

News Item titled "Indus River Dolphins in Troubled Waters" published in Mongabay dated 15.08.2024

VERSUS

Central Pollution Control Board &Ors....

... Respondents

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Udit Malik

MR. UDIT MALIK
ADVOCATES FOR RESOPENDENT ,7 & 8
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 NEW DELHI -110014

CHANDER

15.04.2026

Basanta Raj Kumar

Basanta Raj Kumar, IFS,
 Chief Wildlife Warden,
 Punjab

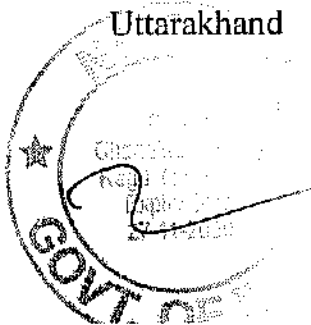
**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
O.A.No. 1158 OF 2024**

News Item titled "Indus River dolphins in troubled waters" appearing in Mongabaydated 15.08.2024..... (Tribunal on its own motion)

VS

1. Central Pollution Control Board
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032
Phone No: 011-43102030
E-mail: mccb.cpcb@nic.in
2. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Through its Member Secretary
Integrated Regional Office, Gandhi Nagar, A-Wing 407 & 409, Aranya Bhawan, Near CH-3 Circle, Sector-10A, Gandhi Nagar 382010
Phone No: +91-9414028806
E-mail: iro.ganhingr-mefcc@gov.in
3. National Mission for Clean Ganga, Through its Director General
NMCG, 1 Floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, India Gate, New Delhi-110002
Phone No: 011-23049528
E-mail: dg@nmcg.nic.in
4. Ministry of Jal Shakti, Through its Secretary
6th Floor Cabin, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi -110001
Phone No: 011-23715919
E-mail: secy-mowr@nic.in
5. Wildlife Institute of India, Through its director
Wildlife Institute of India, Post Box # 18, Chandrabani, Dehradun 248 001

Uttarakhand



Phone No: +91 135-2640114-15

Email: dwii@wii.gov.in

6. Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh

Forest Department(WildlifeWing), Talland Shimla, HP-171001

Phone No: 0177-2625205

E-mail: pccfwl-hp@nic.in

7. Chief wildlife Warden, Punjab

Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Punjab, Tower No. 2 IInd Floor, Forest Complex Sec-68 Mohali-160068

Phone No: 0172-2298036

E-mail: cwlw.punjab@sify.com

**REPLY BY WAY OF AFFIDAVIT OF BASANTA
RAJ KUMAR, IFS, CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN,
PUNJAB ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 7
COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER DATED 9.2.2026.**

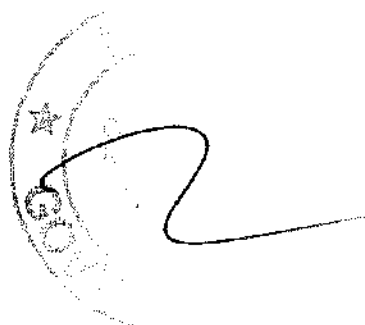
I, Basanta Raj Kumar, IFS, Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

I. PRELIMINARY SUBMISSIONS

1. That the above-mentioned matter is pending adjudication before this Hon'ble Tribunal and is now listed for hearing on 19.05.2026.
2. That the present affidavit is being filed in compliance with the Order dated 09.02.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal, addressing the concerns arising from the news item and the observations contained in the report of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

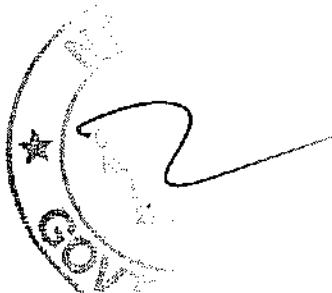


3. That the answering respondent most respectfully submits that the news report published by Mongabay dated 15.08.2024 is based on an ex-parte appreciation of facts and does not reflect the correct factual or administrative position, as no opportunity was afforded to the State Government to present its official response. It is further submitted that the report selectively highlights certain aspects while completely overlooking the substantial conservation measures, statutory compliance, and continuous monitoring mechanisms undertaken by the State, thereby rendering the conclusions drawn therein incomplete, one-sided, and misleading.
4. That the State of Punjab has consistently adopted a proactive, science-based, and precautionary approach for the protection and improvement of the natural environment, including riverine and aquatic ecosystems. It is submitted that all policy decisions and administrative actions are guided by the principles of sustainable development, ecological balance, and inter-generational equity, ensuring that conservation objectives are integrated with governance and developmental planning.
5. That it is respectfully submitted that the Indus River Dolphin was historically considered to have become locally extinct in Indian river systems after the early 20th century; however, its re-sighting in the year 2007 within the Harike Wildlife Sanctuary was made by a Forest Department official during an official field inspection, marking a significant ecological rediscovery. The presence of a small population in the upstream stretch of the Beas River was subsequently confirmed through scientific assessment in collaboration with WWF-India, thereby establishing the continued survival of the species in India and forming the basis for structured conservation measures undertaken by the State.



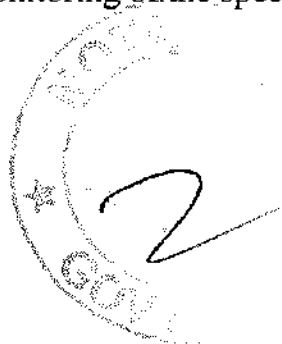
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6. That it is a matter of record that the Indus River Dolphin has been accorded the highest degree of statutory protection by its inclusion in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and it is specifically submitted that such elevation was achieved through sustained efforts, scientific documentation, and continuous coordination by the State Government with the Central Government authorities. The State played a proactive role in providing empirical data, field inputs, and policy recommendations, which significantly contributed to the recognition of the species as one requiring the highest level of legal protection.
7. That the State Government has taken concrete and legally enforceable measures by notifying an approximately 185 km stretch of the Beas River as the Beas Conservation Reserve under Section 36A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 vide Notification No.34/13/2017-FT-5/1052756/1 dated 29.08.2017 (**Annexure R-1**) and declaring the Indus River Dolphin as the State Aquatic Animal vide notification no. 34/10/2019-Ft-5/1171 dated 08.03.2019 (**Annexure-2**) and thereby establishing a statutory framework for habitat protection, regulation of activities, and conservation management within the said stretch.
8. That the State has further strengthened its institutional framework by establishing the Punjab State Wetland Authority. The said Authority ensures scientific planning, regulatory oversight, inter-departmental coordination, and effective implementation of wetland conservation measures, including preparation and approval of management plans, monitoring of ecological health and enforcement of environmental safeguards, thereby placing Punjab at the forefront of wetland governance in India.
9. That the answering respondent has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against illegal activities affecting the river ecosystem, and it is submitted that mechanized sand mining is strictly prohibited within the notified conservation stretch. Continuous



patrolling, deployment of field staff, surveillance mechanisms, and establishment of monitoring check-posts ensures strict enforcement.

10. That the Punjab State Wildlife Board, in exercise of its statutory powers, imposed a complete prohibition on fishing activities within the Beas Conservation Reserve vide its decision dated 20.07.2023 (ANNEXURE R-3). It is further submitted that the said decision has been strictly enforced on the ground through regular inspections, community engagement, and coordination with local authorities, resulting in elimination of fishing-related threats within the notified stretch. Consequently, no incidents of dolphin entanglement or injury due to fishing nets have been reported, demonstrating effective compliance, strong enforcement, and tangible conservation outcomes.
11. That the Indus River Dolphin, being a shy and elusive species, it is not frequently sighted, which is a recognized biological characteristic. However, the Department maintains a systematic and continuous monitoring protocol, and it is submitted that only one mortality has been recorded to date, which upon scientific examination was confirmed to be due to natural causes and not attributable to any anthropogenic activity.
12. That the State is actively facilitating the implementation of Project Dolphin, which is a Centrally sponsored initiative of the Government of India, and is being implemented in Punjab in close coordination with State authorities. It is submitted that under this project, a comprehensive population estimation exercise is scheduled for the year 2026 using advanced scientific techniques such as passive acoustic monitoring and visual transect surveys, in collaboration with reputed institutions including the Wildlife Institute of India and WWF-India, thereby ensuring scientific, evidence-based conservation and long-term monitoring of the species.



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13. That the answering respondent submits that multiple policy, administrative, and scientific measures have been instituted to ensure habitat integrity and regulation of environmental flows. The department has been proactively working with the Bhakra Beas Management Board to regulate water levels and ensure that fluctuations are minimized to reduce their impact on the dolphin habitat. The Working group for Environment Flows (E-Flows) concerning the Beas River was constituted vide Punjab Government notification No. 34/13/2017/FT-5/1301112/1 dated 21.08.2018 (Annexure R-4). This initiative aims to preserve the River Beas and Harike's ecological integrity and safeguard its aquatic life. Further a Beas Integrated Management Plan has been approved by the Punjab State Wetland Authority. In addition, coordinated action is undertaken with the Punjab Pollution Control Board to prevent and control pollution. These measures collectively demonstrate the consistent application of the Precautionary Principle ensuring that ecological protection and habitat sustainability remain paramount.

II. PARA-WISE RESPONSE & COMPLIANCE REPORT

A. HABITAT FRAGMENTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS (Ref: WII Report Observations)

14. That in response to the observations regarding alleged habitat fragmentation, it is respectfully submitted that the habitat of the Indus River Dolphin in the State of Punjab, particularly the Beas River stretch, has been duly protected and statutorily secured by notification of the same as the "Beas Conservation Reserve" under Section 36A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 vide Notification No. 34/13/2017-FT-5/1052756/1 dated 29.08.2017. The said statutory notification provides a legally enforceable framework for protection,



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conservation, and management of the said riverine ecosystem. A copy of the notification is already annexed herewith as ANNEXURE R-1.

15. That with respect to maintenance of environmental flows, it is respectfully submitted that the answering respondent has undertaken continuous and formal institutional engagement with the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) and the Department of Water Resources, Punjab, to ensure a scientifically regulated discharge regime from Pong Dam. The objective of the said coordination is to ensure maintenance of minimum ecological flow and adequate water depth during lean and non-monsoon periods so as to sustain aquatic biodiversity, including the Indus River Dolphin. A copy of the latest communication in this regard, i.e., Letter No. 22 dated 16.04.2026, is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE R-5.

That it is further respectfully submitted that the Department is engaged in continuous technical collaboration with reputed expert institutions, including the Wildlife Institute of India and WWF-India, for the purposes of adaptive habitat management, scientific monitoring, and evidence-based conservation planning through ongoing studies, research activities, field assessments, and technical evaluation. The said collaboration ensures periodic review of ecological conditions, identification of stressors, and formulation of corrective conservation strategies.

B. REGULATION OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES & SAND MINING

17. That the answering respondent respectfully submits that the 185 Km Stretch of River Beas extending from 52 Talwara Head to Harike Barrage has been notified as Beas Conservation Reserve under Section 36 A of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and any activity which is likely to adversely affect the ecological integrity of Wildlife habitat including Commercial and mechanised sand Mining is



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impermissible in Beas Conservation Reserve as per Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

18. That it is further submitted that in areas falling outside the notified Conservation Reserve, sand mining activities are permitted only in accordance with the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines and are subject to prior Environmental Clearance from competent statutory authorities under applicable environmental laws. Such regulatory framework ensures that mining operations remain environmentally sustainable and do not adversely impact the riverine ecosystem.
19. That it is respectfully submitted that river-watch check posts have been strategically established along vulnerable and sensitive stretches of the river for continuous surveillance and enforcement. Further, joint enforcement drives are regularly conducted in coordination with the District Administration, Police Authorities, and Forest Department to curb illegal mining, unauthorized fishing, and other prohibited anthropogenic activities affecting the river ecosystem.
20. That it is further submitted that in order to eliminate anthropogenic threats to the Indus River Dolphin, the State Wildlife Board, Punjab, in its meeting held on 20.07.2023, imposed a complete prohibition on fishing activities within the Beas Conservation Reserve. The said decision is being strictly implemented on the ground through regular patrolling, enforcement actions, and community sensitization. A copy of the minutes of the said meeting is already annexed herewith as ANNEXURE R-3.

That it is respectfully submitted that all instances of violations, if detected, including illegal fishing, unauthorized boating, or use of prohibited nets, are dealt with strictly in accordance with law, and appropriate proceedings are initiated under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, including seizure of equipment, registration of offences, and prosecution before competent authorities.



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Photographs evidencing enforcement actions are annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE R-6.**

C. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & CONSERVATION AWARENESS

24. That it is respectfully submitted that the State has institutionalized community-based conservation mechanisms by training and deploying approximately 150 local volunteers designated as "Beas Dolphin Mitras." These volunteers function as community conservation stewards and act as first responders in cases of dolphin stranding, illegal activity detection, pollution incidents, and other ecological emergencies, thereby strengthening grassroots conservation enforcement.

25. That it is further submitted that regular awareness and capacity-building programs are being conducted in villages, schools, and fisher communities located along the riverine stretch. These programs are aimed at promoting conservation ethics, legal awareness under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and encouraging community participation in protection of aquatic biodiversity. Photographs of such awareness activities are collectively annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE R-7.**

D. BIODIVERSITY RESTORATION & PROJECT DOLPHIN

26. That it is respectfully submitted that a synchronized population estimation exercise for the Indus River Dolphin is scheduled to be conducted in the year 2026 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of Wildlife Habitats" aligned with the national "Project Dolphin" initiative. The said exercise shall be conducted using internationally accepted scientific methodologies, including visual transect surveys and passive acoustic monitoring using hydrophones to ensure accurate population assessment. The census plan is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE R-8.**



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27. That it is further submitted that periodic stocking of indigenous fish species, including carp and catfish fingerlings, is being undertaken in a regulated and scientifically managed manner to maintain ecological balance and ensure a sustainable prey base for the Indus River Dolphin population. Photographic documentation of the same is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE R-9**.
28. That it is respectfully submitted that the Punjab State Wetland Authority, in its meeting held on 25.09.2025, approved the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the Beas Conservation Reserve for onward submission to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) under the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA). The said IMP focuses inter alia on habitat restoration, hydrological management, and prevention of siltation to ensure ecological integrity of the river system. Relevant minutes are annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE R-10**.
29. That it is further submitted that the Department is actively coordinating with the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) for continuous monitoring of water quality parameters, identification of pollution sources, and enforcement of compliance by polluting entities in accordance with applicable environmental norms.

Prayer

In view of the above, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to:

- a) Take the present Reply/Status Report by way of Affidavit on record;
- b) Pass appropriate directions to the concerned authorities, including BBMB, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Department of Water Resources, and District Administrations, for ensuring adequate ecological flow, protection of dolphin habitat, and regulation of anthropogenic activities.



- c) Issue such further directions as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit for strengthening conservation of the Indus River Dolphin;
- d) Pass any other order(s) as deemed fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the present case.

DEPONENT

Basanta Raj Kumar, IFS,
Chief Wildlife Warden,
Punjab.

V. VERIFICATION

15 MAY 2026

Verified on this ^{Cap} 15 day of May 2026, that the contents of above affidavit from Paras 1 to 27 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and as per information derived from the official record. No part of it is false and nothing relevant has been concealed therein.

CHANDIGARH

15 MAY 2026

8417

DEPONENT

Basanta Raj Kumar, IFS,
Chief Wildlife Warden,
Punjab

Attestation

RAJNI
NOTARY, Chandigarh

15.5.26

I identify
who has been
marked in my office

Kamlesh
Signature
Forest Range Officer
Wildlife Division

Government of Punjab
Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation
(Forest Branch)

NOTIFICATION

No. 34/13/2017-Ft-5/1052756/1 Chandigarh, dated the 27/8/2017

Whereas the Government of Punjab is of the opinion that due to its ecological, floral and faunal significance for the purpose of protecting, propagating and developing wildlife and aquatic fauna and its environment, the area mentioned in the following schedule should be declared as Beas River Conservation Reserve,

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 36-A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Governor of Punjab is pleased to declare the area of River Beas from 52 Head Talwara to Harike Barrage as "Conservation Reserve" from the date of issue of this notification. The provisions of sub section (2) of Section 18, Sub Section (2), (3) and (4) of section 27, Section 30, 32 and clauses (b) and (c) of Section 33 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended from time to time shall also apply to the Conservation Reserve being notified. Detail of Area is given as under: -

"River Beas with all its water channels from 52 Head Talwara to Harike Barrage including all Government areas in River Beas.

Himmat Singh
Special Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab
Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation

Endst. No. 34/13/2017-Ft-5/1052756/2-9 Chandigarh, dated the 29/8/2017

A copy is forwarded to the following for information and further necessary action: -

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Punjab.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HAG+) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab.
3. All Chief Conservator of Forests/Conservator of Forests, Punjab.
4. Divisional Forests Officer (Territorial), Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Pathankot and Hoshiarpur.
5. Divisional Forests Officer (Wildlife), Ferozepur, Pathankot and Hoshiarpur.
6. Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur.
7. Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur.
8. A copy with a spare copy of the notification is forwarded to the Controller, Printing & Stationery, Punjab for publication the same in Government gazette (through Nodal Officer, o/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Mohali.)

True Copy
Kamraj Singh
Forest Range Officer
Wildlife Harike

Additional Secretary, Government of Punjab
Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation

Annexure R- 2

NOTIFICATION

Chandigarh, the 08/03/2019
08/03/2019-F.S/1171

subject Declaration of Indus River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*) as State Aquatic Animal of Punjab.

In pursuance to the recommendations made by the Punjab State Board for Wildlife in its 2nd meeting held on 1.2.2019 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab, Indus River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*) is hereby declared as "State Aquatic Animal" of State of Punjab.

This is done with the approval of Chief Minister, Punjab

Dr. Roshan Sunkaria

Additional Chief Secretary,

and Financial Commissioner, Govt. of Punjab

Chandigarh

Dated 08-03-2019

Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation.

Enst. No. 34/2019-F.S/1171 Chandigarh, dated 08/03/2019

A copy is forwarded in the following for information and necessary action

- 1. Principal Secretary, Chief Minister, Punjab
- 2. Private Secretary, Forest Minister, Punjab
- 3. Chief Secretary, Punjab
- 4. All Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary to Government of Punjab, Commissioners of Divisions.
- 5. All Head of Departments, Punjab
- 6. Director General of Police, Punjab
- 7. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (H&F), Punjab.
- 8. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Punjab.
- 9. Chief Wildlife Warden, All States, UTs.
- 10. All Members of Punjab State Board for Wildlife
- 11. All Members of Punjab State Wetlands Authority.
- 12. All Chief Conservator of Forests/Conservator of Forests, Punjab
- 13. All Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police of Punjab State.
- 14. A copy with a spare copy of the notification is forwarded to the Controller, Printing & Stationery, Punjab for publication the same in Government Gazette.

BL

Additional Secretary, Govt. of Punjab
Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation
o/c.

True Copy
Karnal Singh
Forest Range Officer
Wildlife Harike

Government of Punjab
Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation
[Forest Branch]

NOTIFICATION

No. 34/10/2019-Ft 5/1171

Chandigarh, the dated 08/03/2019

Subject: Declaration of Indus River Dolphin [Platanista gangetica minor] as State Aquatic Animal of Punjab.

In pursuance to the recommendations made by the Punjab State Board for Wildlife in its 2nd meeting held on 1.2.2019 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab, Indus River Dolphin [Platanista gangetica minor] is hereby declared as "State Aquatic Animal" of State of Punjab.

This issuing with the approval of Chief Minister, Punjab.

Sd/-

Dr. Roshan Sunkaria
 Additional Chief Secretary,
 and Financial Commissioner, Govt. of Punjab
 Department of Forests and Wildlife

Chandigarh.
 Dated 08-03-2019

Preservation

Endst. No. 34/10/2019-Ft 5/1172

Chandigarh, dated 08/03/2019

A copy is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:

1. Principal Secretary/Chief Minister, Punjab.
2. Private Secretary/Forest Minister, Punjab
3. Chief Secretary, Punjab
4. All Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary to Government of Punjab/Commissioner of Divisions.
5. All Head of Departments, Punjab
6. Director General of Police, Punjab
7. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Punjab.
8. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Punjab.
9. Chief Wildlife Warden, All States/UTs.
10. All Members of Punjab State Board for Wildlife.

True Typed Copy

11. All Members of Punjab State Wetlands Authority.
12. All Chief Conservator of Forests/Conservator of Forests, Punjab
13. All Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police of Punjab State.
14. A copy with a spare copy of the notification is forwarded to the Controller, Printing & Stationery, Punjab for publication the same in Government gazette.

Sd/-

Additional Secretary, Govt. of Punjab
Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation

True Copy
Karnal Singh
Forest Range Officer
Wildlife Harke

True Typed Copy

Minutes of the meeting of Punjab State Wildlife Board held on 20.07.2023 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab at his office room.

The meeting of Punjab State Wildlife Board was held on 20.07.2023 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab. The list of participants is placed at Annexure-1.

At the outset, Financial Commissioner (Forests) welcomed the Chief Minister, Punjab and other members of Board. Then, the Financial Commissioner informed that the last meeting of The Punjab State Wildlife Board was held on 01.02.2019.

Financial Commissioner (Forests) presented the agenda of the meeting before the board as follows:

Item No: 3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Punjab State Wildlife Board held on 1.2.2019.

Financial Commissioner (Forests) informed that the minutes of the last meeting of State Board for Wildlife was held on 1.2.2019. The minutes were circulated to all the members and no comments were received from them. Hence, the minutes stand confirmed.

Item No: 3.2 Fixing of Quorum of the State Board for Wildlife

Financial Commissioner (Forests) informed the Board that for the smooth running of wildlife activities in the state, the State Wildlife Board has been constituted by the State Government as per Section 6 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 vide Notification No. 33/01/2022/FI-5/2342 dated 2.6.2022. As per Section 7 of the said Act, the State Wildlife Board is empowered to regulate the quorum including the functioning of the Board.

In view of above, the Board was requested to fix the quorum of State Board for Wildlife including Chairman/Vice-Chairman and any other seven members.

After deliberation, Board approved the above proposal.

[Signature]

Item No: 3.3 Constitution of Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife.

Financial Commissioner (Forests) informed that the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended recently in 2022 and amendments have come into force from 1st April 2023 and under Section 6A of the Wildlife (Protection) amendment Act, 2022, a provision has been made to constitute a Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife.

In light of the above, Board was requested to constitute a Standing Committee. After deliberation of the proposal, approval was given to constitute Standing committee comprising of Vice Chairman, Member Secretary and five other members.

Item no: 3.4 Delegating the powers of the State Board for Wildlife.

Financial Commissioner (Forests) informed that for effective management of Wildlife activities, Immediate approval of State Board for Wildlife is required for certain developmental activities which are to be carried out in Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves. As many issues are of urgent nature requiring immediate decision and may remain pending due to non-meeting of the State Board for Wildlife. The Hon'ble Board was informed that under Section 6A(1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2022, the State Board for Wildlife is empowered to delegate its duties and powers to the Standing Committee (under Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Forest and Wildlife Preservation).

Keeping in view the above, the Board was requested that the matters of urgent nature which require immediate consideration/ approval of State Board for Wildlife, should be delegated to the Standing Committee for considering and approving the same.

After deliberation, the Board approved the above proposal.

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Item No: 3.5 Regarding giving approval regarding various projects to be conducted by the National Highways Authority of India in the state.

Item No:3.5.1 Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway - Junction of Jalandhar-Kapurthala Road to Khojewal Village near Amritsar-Mehta Shri Hargobindpur Junction Tank Km 319+400 to Km 362+420 Bharatmala Project in Punjab State under EPC Mode -Regarding approval of GAD (General Arrangement Drawing) submitted for construction of major bridge at km 354+698 on river Beas.

The Board was informed by the Financial Commissioner (Forests) that from km 135+056 to 397+712 km of Delhi-Katra Expressway which includes green field connectivity to Amritsar (starting at km 306+000 of Delhi-Katra Expressway and ending at Amritsar-Ajnala Road NH354 for a total length of 99 km) to Punjab section, National Highways Authority of India, PIU, Ludhiana needed permission for construction of four bridges in Beas river Conservation Reserve and Kail Bein Conservation Reserve as part of development. Following the approval of Ludhiana's project proposal by the State Board for Wildlife, as per the recommendations given by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife, the Wildlife Mitigation Plan was approved by the Office of the Chief Wildlife Warden. But now the National Highways Authority of India has sought permission to change the span arrangement while submitting the general arrangement drawing. Now they want to make the span arrangement $22 \times 37.5 = 825$ meters instead of $8 \times 100 = 800$ meters.

In this regard, the Board was informed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab that as per the guidelines of the Government of India, the approval for the projects to be carried out in Conservation Reserve is no longer required to be considered by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife because the State Government has been authorized

After deliberation, Board approved the proposed span arrangement as per General Arrangement Drawing regarding change of span as submitted by National Highways Authority of India.

Item No: 3.5.2 Bridge over river Beas for widening and improvement of existing 2 lane to 4 lane from Ghuman (Ch: 54+000) to Pandori village (Ch:85+500) section of NH-503A in Punjab State

The Board was informed by Financial Commissioner (Forests) that Project NH503A from Ghuman (Ch: 54+000) to Pandori village (Ch:85+500) section for widening and improving existing 2 lanes to 4 lanes and relates to construction of bridge over existing NH-44 proposed Tanda Bypass in Punjab State (design length 2.350 km to end of Tanda Hoshiarpur Road Proposed project passes through Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur districts in Punjab State. Total length of proposed project is 33.85 km and the proposed alignment is passing through the Beas River Conservation Reserve (Ch: 66-918 to Ch: 67-617) in Hoshiarpur District of Punjab State.

Since this project is passing through the Conservation Reserve, according to the guidelines of the Government of India, the approval for the project to be carried out in Conservation Reserve is no longer required to be considered by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife because the State Government has been authorized.

After considering the above proposal, Board approved this project.

Item No: 3.6 Concrete Lining of Kotli Distributary RD 8850-11800 (900 m) and Kakrala Minor RD 0-6000 (1829.20 m) - Construction of Head Regulator of Kakrala Minor in Bir Dosanjh Wildlife Sanctuary, Nabha, Patiala.

Financial Commissioner (Forests) informed the Board that concrete lining of Kotli Distributary with 10% enhanced capacity from RD 8850-11800 (900 Mtr.), Kakrala Minor RD 0-

6000 (1829.20 Mtr.) - construction of Head regulator of Kakrala Minor in Bir Dosanjh Wildlife Sanctuary including project proposal regarding Wildlife Mitigation-cum-Conservation Plan of ₹26.52 lakh has been submitted. The Board was informed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab that the project being inside the Bir Bhadson Wildlife Sanctuary, as per the guidelines of the Government of India, Ministry of Forests and Environment, New Delhi dated 19.12.2012, the proposal is required to be sent to Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife after getting approval from the State Board for Wildlife.

Agreeing to this proposal, Board approved to send this project proposal to the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.

Item No: 3.7 Regarding granting permission to hunt wild animals within the Air Force Station.

The Board was informed by the Financial Commissioner (Forests) that the notification for issuing hunting permits at Air Force Stations to prevent damage to aircraft, equipment and employees of Air Force by wild boars and Blue Bulls has been issued.

It was brought to the notice of the Board that this is only for the information of the board. So board members took notice of it.

Item No: 3.8 Regarding limited hunting of wild animals.

The Board was informed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab that the Divisional Forest Officers and Sub-Divisional Officers (Civil) were authorized by various notifications to issue the permit for the limited hunting of wild animals (Wild boar and Blue bull) in the state to prevent devastation of farmers' crops. This limited hunting policy is applicable in the entire state except Abohar and Fazilka. But now, it has come to the notice of the Forest and Wildlife Protection Department that illegal hunting of wild animals is being done by these hunters under the guise of this permit and two such cases have come to light in Ropar Wildlife Division where two poachers killed two leopards by guns even though the land of these hunters is not even close to this

area. Apart from this, in another case, barking deer and wild boar were hunted inside the forest area by these hunters.

The Inspector General of Police (Crime), Punjab requested that a training to the Police Department regarding the Wildlife (Protection) Act should be given to educate them regarding wildlife crime issues & latest amendments to the Act. In this regard, Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab assured that this training to the police department will be given in near future.

After consideration by the Board, the following proposed conditions were approved:

Series No:	Prior Conditions	Proposed Conditions
1.	Permit for limited hunting to the aggrieved farmer or the hunter authorized by him.	The permit for limited hunting should be given only to the aggrieved farmer suffering from loss of crops and not to any other person or hunter.
2.	The hunted animal can be taken by the hunter for his own use.	The hunted animal will be the Government property and not of the hunter.
3.	Use 7mm caliber rifle or .12 bore gun for hunting.	Use of only .315 bore for hunting shall be permitted.

Item No: 3.9 Regarding ban on fishing.

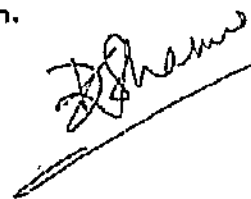
It was brought to the notice of the Board by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab that the plan for release of gharials in Beas Conservation Reserve was drawn up in the year 2017 under which 94 gharials have been released in three phases and based on the breeding status, it may be necessary to release more gharials by the department in future. Along with this, the Indus Dolphin, Otter and Turtles are also found in the Beas River, which are listed in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and are in the endangered list. Apart from this, the Indus River Dolphin has also been given the status of State Aquatic Animal by the State Government.

The Board was informed that under the Beas river rejuvenation program, fish seedlings have also been released in it. Commercial fishing will not only create an imbalance in aquatic biodiversity but will also endanger dolphins and other aquatic life as their chances of getting caught in fishing nets will increase. Apart from this, the Board was informed that if any

schedule-I animal gets caught in nets etc. then it will be a violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act. The Board was also informed that fishing with fishing lines in the tributaries by local communities for livelihood shall continue as such.

After considering the above situation, the Board agreed to permanently ban fishing within the boundaries of Beas Conservation Reserve and also instructed that the Wildlife Department will not stop fishing beyond the Beas Conservation Reserve boundary.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chairman and the members by the Chief Wildlife Warden.



True copy
Kamdev Singh
Forest Range Officer
Wildlife Harike

Government of Punjab
Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation
(Forest Branch)

NOTIFICATION

34/13/2017-FT-5/130/112/1, Chandigarh, dated the 21/8/2017

The Governor of Punjab is pleased to constitute the Environmental Flows Working Group with following composition:

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab	Chairman
Director and Warden, Department of Fisheries, Punjab	Member
Director, Agriculture, Punjab	Member
Chief Engineer, Irrigation, Punjab	Member
Chief Engineer, BBMB, Punjab	Member
Chief Engineer, Department of Water Resources, Punjab	Member
Director, Remote Sensing, P.A.U., Ludhiana	Member
Director, Rivers, Wetlands & Water Policy, WWF-India	Member
Mrs. Gitanjali Kanwar, Senior Project Officer, WWF-India	Member
Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Punjab	Member Secretary

The mandate of the Group is to study all aspects associated with Beas River Ecosystem and to develop a framework for maintaining environmental flows in the river to maintain its ecological integrity and ensure security of its aquatic life within a period of one year from the date of notification.

Dr. Roshan Sunkaria, IAS
Financial Commissioner, Govt. of Punjab,
Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation.

Encl. No. 34/13/2017-FT-5/130/112/1, Chandigarh dated 21/8/2017

A copy is sent to the followings for information and further necessary action:-

- 1 Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab.
- 2 Director and Warden, Department of Fisheries, Punjab.
- 3 Director, Agriculture, Punjab.
- 4 Chief Engineer, Irrigation, Punjab.
- 5 Chief Engineer, BBMB, Punjab.
- 6 Chief Engineer, Department of Water Resources, Punjab.
- 7 Director, Remote Sensing, P.A.U., Ludhiana.
- 8 Director, Rivers, Wetlands & Water Policy, WWF-India.
- 9 Mrs. Gitanjali Kanwar, Senior Project Officer, WWF-India.
- 10 Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Punjab.


Additional Secretary, Govt. of Punjab,
Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation, S. Nagar.

True copy
Kamraj Singh
Forest Range Officer
Wildlife Harike

ਵਣ ਅਤੇ ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਪੰਜਾਬ
ਦਫ਼ਤਰ: ਵਣ ਮੰਡਲ ਅਫਸਰ, ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵ ਮੰਡਲ, ਫਿਰੋਜਪੁਰ
ਮੌਲਵਾਲ ਕਈਮ, ਮੋਗਾ ਰੋਡ, ਫਿਰੋਜਪੁਰ

Email: dfowildlifefar@gmail.com ਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ 01632-291282

ਸੇਵਾ ਵਿਖੇ

ਚੀਫ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ,
ਤਾਪਤਾ ਬਿਆਸ ਮੈਨੇਜਮੈਂਟ ਖੇਤਰ,
ਤਲਵਾਰਾ।

ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰ. 222 ਚਿਠੀ 16.4.26

ਵਿਸ਼ਾ: ਬਿਆਸ ਦਰਿਆ ਵਿੱਚ ਪਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਪੱਧਰ ਦੀ ਯੋਗ ਮਾਤਰਾ ਬਣਾਈ ਰੱਖਣ ਅਤੇ ਮਾਣਯੋਗ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਗ੍ਰੀਨ ਟ੍ਰਿਬਿਊਨਲ (NGT) ਦੇ ਹੁਕਮਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਸਬੰਧੀ।

ਹਵਾਲਾ: ਮਾਣਯੋਗ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਗ੍ਰੀਨ ਟ੍ਰਿਬਿਊਨਲ (NGT) ਦਾ ਹੁਕਮ ਮਿਤੀ 09-02-2026 (OA No. 1158/2024), (Indus River Dolphin in Troubled waters) ਅਤੇ ਵਣ ਰੇਜ ਅਫਸਰ, ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵ ਰੇਜ, ਹਰੀਕੇ ਦਾ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰ. 32/ਐੱਚ ਮਿਤੀ 15-04-2026

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਅੰਕਿਤ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਤੇ ਹਵਾਲੇ ਅਧੀਨ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਆਪ ਨੂੰ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮਾਣਯੋਗ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਗ੍ਰੀਨ ਟ੍ਰਿਬਿਊਨਲ (NGT) ਵੱਲੋਂ ਉਕਤ ਯੋਜ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਹਵਾਇਤਾਂ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਬਿਆਸ ਦਰਿਆ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਲ-ਜੀਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਕੁਦਰਤੀ ਆਵਾਸ (habitat) ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਲਈ ਨਿਯਮਿਤ ਅਤੇ ਸਥਿਰ ਜਲ-ਪ੍ਰਵਾਹ (environmental flow) ਬਰਕਰਾਰ ਰੱਖਣਾ ਅਤੇ ਜਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ। ਵਾਈਲਡਲਾਈਫ ਇੰਸਟੀਚਿਊਟ ਆਫ ਇੰਡੀਆ (WII) ਦੀਆਂ ਰਿਪੋਰਟਾਂ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਡੈਮ/ਬੰਦਰਾਜਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਪਾਣੀ ਦੀ ਨਿਕਾਸੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਤਾਰ-ਚੜ੍ਹਾਅ ਅਤੇ ਘੱਟ ਡਿਸਚਾਰਜ ਕਾਰਨ ਦਰਿਆਈ ਪ੍ਰਣਾਲੀ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਿਤ ਹੋ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ, ਜਿਸ ਨਾਲ Indus River Dolphin, Gharial and Otter ਵਰਗੀਆਂ ਸਫਿਲ-1 ਪ੍ਰਜਾਤੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਹੋਂਦ ਨੂੰ ਖਤਰਾ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੋ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਜਲ-ਜੀਵ ਪਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਨਗਾਤਾਰ ਵਰਾਮ ਉੱਤੇ ਨਿਰਭਰ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ, ਜੋ ਘੱਟ ਡਿਸਚਾਰਜ ਕਾਰਨ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਿਤ ਹੋ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਆਪ ਨੂੰ ਫੈਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਬਿਆਸ ਦਰਿਆ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਲ-ਜੀਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਲਈ ਘੱਟੋ-ਘੱਟ ਲੇਜ਼ੋਂਦਾ ਨਿਊਨਤਮ ਜਲ-ਪ੍ਰਵਾਹ (minimum environmental flow) ਬਰਕਰਾਰ ਰੱਖਣ ਦੀ ਖੋਜ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਜੋ ਲੁਪਤ ਹੋ ਰਹੀਆਂ ਪ੍ਰਜਾਤੀਆਂ Indus River Dolphin, Gharial, Otter ਆਦਿ ਦੇ ਨਾਨ-ਨਾਲ ਹੋਰ ਪਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਹਿਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਜਲ ਜੀਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਬਚਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕੇ ਅਤੇ ਮਾਣਯੋਗ NGT ਦੇ ਹੁਕਮਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਯਕੀਨੀ ਬਣਾਈ ਜਾ ਸਕੇ।

[Signature]
ਵਣ ਮੰਡਲ ਅਫਸਰ,
ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵ ਮੰਡਲ,
ਫਿਰੋਜਪੁਰ।

ਪਿ.ਐ.ਨੰ. _____ ਮਿਤੀ _____

ਕਾਪੀ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਅਤੇ ਨੀਤੀ ਦੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਲਈ ਭੇਜੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ :-

1. ਵਣ ਪਾਲ (ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵ), ਪਾਰਕਸ ਅਤੇ ਪ੍ਰੋਟੈਕਟਿਡ ਏਰੀਆ ਸਰਕਲ, ਪੰਜਾਬ।
2. ਕਾਰਜਕਾਰੀ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ, ਹਰੀਕੇ ਕੰਨਲ ਡਵੀਜ਼ਨ, ਫਿਰੋਜਪੁਰ ਨੂੰ ਭੇਜ ਕੇ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਬਿਆਸ ਦਰਿਆ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀ ਦਾ ਘੱਟੋ-ਘੱਟ ਲੇਜ਼ੋਂਦਾ ਨਿਊਨਤਮ ਜਲ-ਪ੍ਰਵਾਹ (minimum environmental flow) ਬਰਕਰਾਰ ਰੱਖਣ ਲਈ ਉੱਚ ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਲਿਖਣ ਦੀ ਖੋਜ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਜੋ ਪਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਹਿਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਜੀਵ ਜੰਗੂਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਲੁਪਤ ਹੋ ਰਹੀਆਂ ਪ੍ਰਜਾਤੀਆਂ Indus River Dolphin, Gharial ਅਤੇ Otter ਨੂੰ ਬਚਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕੇ।
3. ਕਾਪੀ ਵਣ ਰੇਜ ਅਫਸਰ (ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵ), ਹਰੀਕੇ ਨੂੰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰ. 32/11 ਮਿਤੀ 15-04-2026 ਦੇ ਹਵਾਲੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਭੇਜ ਕੇ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਬਿਆਸ ਦਰਿਆ ਕੰਜਰਵੇਸ਼ਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਗਸਤ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ ਕਿ ਪਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਲੈਵਲ ਘਟਣ ਕਰਕੇ ਮੰਡੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਜਲ ਜੀਵਾਂ ਦਾ ਜਾਰੀ ਨੁਕਸਾਨ ਤਾਂ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋ ਰਿਹਾ? ਅਤੇ ਪਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਲੈਵਲ ਤੇ ਲਗਾਤਾਰ ਨਿਗਰਾਨੀ ਰੱਖੀ ਜਾਵੇ ਅਤੇ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਮੰਡਲ ਦਫਤਰ ਭੇਜਣੀ ਯਕੀਨੀ ਬਣਾਈ ਜਾਵੇ। ਜੇਕਰ ਬਿਆਸ ਦਰਿਆ ਵਿੱਚ ਪਾਣੀ ਦਾ ਲੈਵਲ ਘੱਟਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਸਿੱਚਾਈ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਨਾਲ ਤਾਲਮੇਲ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇ।

True Copy
Kamshet Singh
Forest Range Officer
Wildlife Harike

ਵਣ ਮੰਡਲ ਅਫਸਰ,
ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵ ਮੰਡਲ,
ਫਿਰੋਜਪੁਰ।

Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation, Punjab
Office: Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Division, Ferozepur
Malwal Quadim, Moga Road, Ferozepur
Email: dfowildlifefzr@gmail.com | Phone No: 01632-291282

To

Chief Engineer,
Bhakra Beas Management Board,
Talwara.

Letter No: 22 Date: 16.4.26

Subject: Regarding maintaining the appropriate water level in the Beas River and compliance with the orders of the Honorable National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Reference: Honorable National Green Tribunal (NGT) order dated 09-02-2026 (OA No. 1158/2024), (Indus River Dolphin in Troubled waters) and Forest Range Officer, Wildlife Range, Harike's Letter No. 32/H dated 15-04-2026.

With regard to the subject and references cited above, it is written to you that as per the instructions issued by the Honorable National Green Tribunal (NGT) in the said case, it is extremely essential to maintain a regular and stable environmental flow for the protection of aquatic life and their natural habitat in the Beas River. According to reports of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), the river system is being affected due to fluctuations and low discharge of water from dams/barrages, which is posing a threat to the existence of Schedule-1 species such as the Indus River Dolphin, Gharial, and Otter. These aquatic animals depend on the continuous flow of water, which is being impacted by low discharge. Therefore, you are requested to kindly maintain the minimum environmental flow required in the Beas River for the protection of aquatic life so that endangered species like the Indus River Dolphin, Gharial, Otter, etc. along with other aquatic life, can be saved and compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble NGT can be ensured.

Sd/-

Divisional Forest Officer,
Wildlife Division, Ferozepur.

True Translated Copy

Endst. No.

Date.....

A copy is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:

1. Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Parks and Protected Area Circle, Punjab.
2. Executive Engineer, Harike Canal Division, Ferozepur, sent with the instruction to write to higher authorities to maintain the minimum environmental flow of the Beas River water so that aquatic animals and endangered species like the Indus River Dolphin, Gharial and Otter can be protected.
3. Forest Range Officer (Wildlife), Harike, Sent in reference to their Letter No. 32/H dated 15-04-2026, with the instruction to patrol the Beas River Conservation area to ensure that there is no loss of life of fish or other aquatic animals due to falling water levels. Constant monitoring of the water level must be maintained, and a compliance report must be sent to the Divisional Office. If the water level in the Beas River decreases, this office should be informed while coordinating with the Irrigation Department.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Wildlife Division,
Ferozepur.

True Translated Copy
Kamaljit Singh
Forest Range Officer
Wildlife Harike

True Translated Copy

Annexure R-6



True Copy
Kamlesh Singh
Forest Range Officer
Wildlife Harike

Amnecune R-7



True Copy
Kamaljit Singh
Forest Range Officer
Wildlife Harike

Annexure 2 - 8

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ
 ਵਣ ਅਤੇ ਜੰਗਲੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਵਿਭਾਗ
 ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਮੁੱਖ ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵ ਵਾਰਡਨ, ਪੰਜਾਬ
 ਵਣ ਭਵਨ, ਸੈਕਟਰ-68, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ।
 (ਤਕਨੀਕੀ ਸ਼ਾਖਾ)

ਸੇਵਾ ਵਿਖੇ,

ਵਣ ਮੰਡਲ ਅਫਸਰ (ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵ)
 ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ।


No./1362344/2026
 Date:07-04-2026

ਵਿਸ਼ਾ **Launch of Rangewide Estimation of Riverine and
 Estuarine Dolphin- 2nd cycle in Punjab.**

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਆਪ ਨੂੰ ਵਾਈਲਡਲਾਈਫ ਇੰਸਟੀਚਿਊਟ ਆਫ ਇੰਡੀਆ
 (WII) ਵੱਲੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਈਮੇਲ ਮਿਤੀ 30.03.2026 ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਭੇਜ ਕੇ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ WII
 ਟੀਮ ਨੂੰ ਲੋੜੀਂਦਾ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਵੇ।

#ApprovedByName#

CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (WILDLIFE) PPA CIRCLE-CWLW
 07-04-2026


 Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
 Parks & Protected Areas Circle
 Punjab, Chandigarh.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation
Office of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab
Van Bhawan, Sector-68, S.A.S. Nagar
(Technical Branch)

To,

Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife)
Ferozepur.

No. I/1362344/2026

Date: 07-04-2026

Subject: Launch of Rangewide Estimation of Riverine and Estuarine Dolphin
- 2nd Cycle in Punjab.

Regarding the subject mentioned above, a copy of the email dated 30.03.2026 received from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is being sent to you with the direction that necessary cooperation be extended to the WII team.

#ApprovedByName#

CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (WILDLIFE) PPA CIRCLE-CWLW
07-04-2026

Sd/-
Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
Parks & Protected Areas Circle,
Punjab, Chandigarh.

True Translated Copy

Kamaljeet Singh
Forest Range Officer
Wildlife Harike

True Translated Copy



CWLW Punjab <cwlwpunjab@gmail.com>

CEFC(WL)

Launch of Rangewide Estimation of Riverine and Estuarine Dolphin - 2nd Cycle in Punjab

Dr. Vishnupriya Kolipakam <vishnupriya@wii.gov.in>

Mon, Mar 30, 2026 at 7:44 PM

To: cwlwpunjab@gmail.com

Cc: dfowildlifefzr@gmail.com, gkanwar@wvfindia.net, suresh@wvfindia.net, vineetsingh@wii.gov.in, Vineet Singh <vineet5990@gmail.com>, Sunny Deori <sunnydeori@gmail.com>, sarmahiyashri@gmail.com

Shri -
Ajit Singh

Dr. Vishnupriya
Ghosh
Supt. (Tech)

Vishnupriya Kolipakam, PhD
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Launch of Rangewide Estimation of Riverine and Estuarine Dolphin - 2nd Cycle in Punjab.pdf
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06/04/26



Date: As per E-sign

To

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), & Chief Wildlife Warden
Forest Complex, Tower No. 2, 2nd Floor, Sector-68, S.A.S. Nagar.
Email- cwfwpunjab@gmail.com**Subject - Launch of Rangewide Estimation of Riverine and Estuarine Dolphin – 2nd Cycle in Punjab**

Ref: I- WII/VK/Rangewide_2-Part(1)

II- F. No. WL-34-3/2020-WL (Part-20) (Part-1) (E-273453)

Sir,

As you are aware, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in collaboration with State Forest Departments and partner NGOs (WWF-India, in Punjab), has been implementing the Rangewide Estimation of Riverine and Estuarine Dolphin as a flagship scientific initiative under Project Dolphin. This nationally coordinated effort aimed at generating robust, comparable, and policy-relevant data on the distribution, abundance, habitat use, and threats to riverine and estuarine dolphins across their entire range in India, using standardized scientific protocols.

In this context, for the State of Punjab, which supports one of the most important river dolphin populations Indus river dolphin (*Platanista minor*) in the country, has been planned in coming field sessions, considering river conditions and logistical feasibility:

Sl. No	Phase	River	Tentative Dates
1-	Phase - I	Beas (Marhi Panuan Bridge to Harike Wetland) and Sutlej (Shaheed Udham Singh Bridge to Gurudwara Gupesar Sahib Ji)	08-04-2026 to 17-04-2026

Prior to the commencement of the field surveys, WII proposes to organize capacity-building and training workshops for Forest Department staff on standardized dolphin monitoring protocols. The trained participants will subsequently participate in the rangewide dolphin survey in their respective districts when the WII survey teams cover those stretches, thereby ensuring uniform data collection and enhancing the technical capacity of the State Forest Department for long-term dolphin monitoring.

Sl. No	Training Venue	Tentative Date	District covered
1-	Firozpur	08-04-2026	Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Kapurthala, Firozpur, Jalandhar and Moga

To ensure smooth and effective implementation of the survey, support from the Forest Department is kindly requested on the following aspects:



(An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)
पत्रपेटी सं./Post Box No. 10, चन्द्रगढ़ी, चेहरापुर/Chandragah, Dehradun - 246001, उत्तराखण्ड, भारत/Dehradun, Uttarakhand, INDIA.

- 1- **Coordination and Nodal Support** - We have highlighted the districts along with the corresponding river stretches proposed to be covered under the survey. The Nodal Officer is kindly requested to share the details (name, contact information, etc.) of the current Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) of the concerned districts, inform and involve them regarding the forthcoming rangewide survey, and request the respective DFOs to ensure their participation. This may include nominating a Range Officer to coordinate with and assist the WII survey teams during field operations, as well as deputing staff to participate in boat-based surveys within their respective jurisdictions.
- 2- **Capacity Building and Training** - The Forest Department is requested to encourage the participation of its personnel in WII's training and orientation programmes on dolphin monitoring protocols. Further, during the 1st Rangewide Dolphin Survey, the Punjab Forest Department was provided with dolphin monitoring instruments with technical support from WII; it is requested that these instruments be utilised during the 2nd cycle of the survey. In case of any technical or operational issues, the WII team will provide necessary guidance and support.
- 3- **Logistical and Field Support** - In river stretches, the WII survey teams may require logistical and on-ground support from the Forest Department, including provision of suitable venues for conducting training programmes (as per availability), boats and engines along with experienced boat staff for designated survey stretches, lodging facilities in Forest Rest Houses or other departmental accommodations (subject to availability), and manpower assistance in the form of forest staff, guards, or boatmen familiar with the local river sections.

We look forward to your continued support for the successful Implementation of the Rangewide Estimation of Riverine and Estuarine Dolphin – 2nd Cycle in Uttar Pradesh. Ms. Hiyashri Sarma will be the nodal person for the survey and Dr. Vineet Singh (9412851690, 8218836941, vineetsingh@wii.gov.in) will be co-ordinating the overall exercise.

KOLIPAKAM Digitally signed by
VISHNUPRIYA KOLIPAKAM VISHNUPRIYA
Date: 2026.03.30 17:30:43
+05'30'

Dr. Vishnupriya Kolipakam
Scientist-E & Project-In charge

Copy to:

- Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife), Nodal officer, Malwal Qadim, Ferozepur, Punjab.
dfowildlifefzr@gmail.com
- Ms Geetanjali Kanwar, Senior Coordinator, WWF-India Bharatpur Project Office, Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur – 321 001, Rajasthan. Email : gkanwar@wwfindia.net
- Mr. Suresh Babu, Director - Rivers Wetlands and Water Policy, WWF India, Email: suresh@wwfindia.net



DFO Wildlife Ferozepur <dfowildlifefzr@gmail.com>

Updated Dates and Times for Training

1 message

Dr. Vishnupriya Kolipakam <vishnupriya@wii.gov.in>

Mon, Apr 13, 2026 at 10:04 AM

To: cwlwpunjab@gmail.com

Cc: dfowildlifefzr@gmail.com, gkanwar@wwfindia.net, suresh@wwfindia.net, Vineet Singh <vineetsingh@wii.gov.in>, Sunny <sunny@wii.gov.in>, "Dr. Abdul Wakid PI Dr Vishnupriya" <wakid@wii.gov.in>

Dear Sir,

After due discussion with DFO Ferozepur, the updated time and dates of the Survey and Training are as follows:

Sl. No	Phase	River	Tentative Survey Dates
1-	Phase - I	Beas (Marhi Panuan Bridge to Harike Wetland) and Sutlej (Shaheed Udham Singh Bridge to Gurudwara Guphsar Sahib Ji)	20-04-2026 to 26-04-2026

Prior to the commencement of the field surveys, WII proposes to organize a **one day capacity-building and training workshops** for Forest Department staff on standardized dolphin monitoring protocols. The trained participants will subsequently participate in the rangewide dolphin survey in their respective districts when the WII survey teams cover those stretches, thereby ensuring uniform data collection and enhancing the technical capacity of the State Forest Department for long-term dolphin monitoring.

Sl. No	Training Venue	Tentative Date	District covered
1-	Harike Interpretation Centre, Ferozepur	18-04-2026	Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Kapurthala, Ferozepur, Jalandhar and Moga

We are in conversation with the Nodal Officer and WWF-India to ensure that the training and survey are conducted smoothly.

Regards
Vishnupriya

--
Vishnupriya Kolipakam, PhD
Faculty, Dept. of Animal Ecology & Conservation Biology
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
Phone: +91-135-2646203

True Copy
Kamraj Singh
Forest Range Officer
Wildlife Harike



True Copy
Kamlesh Singh
Forest Range Officer
Wildlife Harike

Government of Punjab
Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation
O/o Chief Administrator, Punjab State Wetlands Authority
-cum- Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab
Email: cwlwpunjab@gmail.com

No: 2938-55

To

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. | Secretary in-charge, Govt. of Punjab
Department of Environment. | Member
ex-officio |
| 2. | Secretary in-charge, Govt. of Punjab
Department of Urban Development | Member
ex-officio |
| 3. | Secretary in-charge, Govt. of Punjab
Department of Rural Development | Member
ex-officio |
| 4. | Secretary in-charge, Govt. of Punjab
Department of Water Resources | Member
ex-officio |
| 5. | Secretary in-charge, Govt. of Punjab
Department of Fisheries | Member
ex-officio |
| 6. | Secretary in-charge, Govt. of Punjab
Department of Flood Control | Member
ex-officio |
| 7. | Secretary in-charge, Govt. of Punjab
Department of Tourism | Member
ex-officio |
| 8. | Secretary in-charge, Govt. of Punjab
Department of Revenue | Member
ex-officio |
| 9. | Director, State Remote Sensing Centre,
Ludhiana | Member
ex-officio |
| 10. | Member Secretary,
State Biodiversity Board. | Member
ex-officio |
| 11. | Member Secretary,
State Pollution Control Board | Member
ex-officio |
| 12. | Additional Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests, Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Sector 31,
Chandigarh. | Member
ex-officio |
| 13. | Director,
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun | Expert in Wildlife
and Wetland |
| 14. | Director, WWF-India
Rivers, Wetlands and Water Policy. | Expert
In Hydrology |
| 15. | Director & Warden,
Fisheries Department, Punjab | Expert
In Fisheries |
| 16. | Chief Architect, Punjab | Expert
In Landscape
Planning |

FORESTS, REGIONAL OFFICE, MOEF&CC, Sector 31

17. Head, Department of Economics,
Punjabi University, Patiala. Expert In Socio-
Economics
18. Mrs. Gitanjali Kanwar, Coordinator,
WWF-India, Harike. Co-opt
Member


Dated: 22.12.25

Subject: Minutes of 3rd Meeting of the Punjab State Wetlands Authority (PSWA).

Reference This office Letter No. 2343-60 Dated 18.09.2025

With respect to the subject cited above, please find enclosed herewith minutes of 3rd meeting of PSWA held on 25th September, 2025 (Thursday) at 12:00 PM under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Forests and Wildlife Preservation-cum-Chairperson, Punjab State Wetland Authority at Conference Hall, 7th Floor, Forest Complex, Sector 68, S.A.S. Nagar for your kind perusal please.

Encl. As above


Chief Administrator, PSWA
cum- Chief Wildlife Warden,
Punjab, S.A.S. Nagar.


Endst. No. 2956-57

Dated: 22.12.25

A copy is forwarded to:

1. Private Secretary to Forest Minister, Punjab for the kind information of Hon'ble Minister of Forests and Wildlife Preservation-cum-Chairperson, PSWA.
2. Private Secretary to Administrative Secretary (Forests) for the kind information of Administrative Secretary, Government of Punjab, Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation and Vice Chairperson, PSWA.

Encl. As above


Chief Administrator, PSWA
cum- Chief Wildlife Warden,
Punjab, S.A.S. Nagar.


Endst. No. 2958-68

Dated: 22.12.25

A copy along with minutes is sent to the followings for information and further necessary action:

1. Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife), Phillaur/Ropar/Ferozepur/Pathankot and Patiala.
2. Divisional Forest Officer (T), Mansa/Sangrur/Ferozepur/Muktsar and Amritsar.

Encl. As above


Chief Administrator, PSWA
cum- Chief Wildlife Warden,
Punjab, S.A.S. Nagar.

Minutes of 3rd Meeting of Punjab State Wetland Authority (PSWA) under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Forest Minister, Department of Forests and Wildlife, Punjab held on 25.09.2025.

The Third meeting of Punjab State Wetland Authority (PSWA) was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Forest Minister, Department of Forests and Wildlife, Punjab on 25.09.2025 at 12.00 PM in Conference Hall, Forest Complex, SAS Nagar. The list of Participants of Officers/Officials who attended the meeting is enclosed at Annexure 1.

The meeting commenced with the warm welcome extended by Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab (Chief Administrator of the State Wetlands Authority), to the Chairperson, members of the authority and other invitees.

Item No. 3.1 Leave of Absence

The meeting started with the chair acknowledging the absence of members unable to attend this meeting and granting them leave of absence.

Item No. 3.2 Ground Truthing and Demarcation of Wetlands boundaries by Digital mapping as per the directions of Supreme Court

Supreme Court of India Vide its order dated 11.12.2024 in WP (C) No. 304/2018 Anand Arya Vs Union of India along with WP (C) No. 302/2020-Vanashakti Public Trust & Anr Vs Union of India & Anr has directed each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities to complete ground truthing as well as the demarcation of wetland boundaries of each of the Wetlands by Space Application Centre Atlas (SAC Atlas), 2021.

In this regard, the authority was apprised that SAC 2021 atlas identified a total of 1143 water bodies with an area of ≥ 2.25 hectares in Punjab. Status of existence or non-existence of water bodies listed in the SAC Atlas, 2021 for 1143 waterbodies was completed in 2024.

The authority was further informed that the ground-truthing, boundary demarcation and digital mapping of the Identified wetlands were carried out in coordination with the concerned stakeholder departments under the guidance and evaluation by the District Wetland Committees in line with the directions from the MoEFCC and orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The dataset of waterbodies from 23 districts shows waterbodies ranging from as low as 5 in district Malerkotla to as high as 138 in district Bathinda. The highest number of waterbodies are recorded from districts Bathinda (138), Sangrur (109) and Mansa (107).

The authority was briefed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab that, so far, a total of 73 wetlands have been recommended by the respective District Wetlands Committee to be notified as Wetlands under the Wetlands Rules 2017.

District Wetland Committees have prepared brief documents and health cards for respective waterbodies and have recommended following waterbodies for further action and notification. These waterbodies are located in following districts Fatehgarh Sahib (12), Mansa (10), Fazikla (8), Barnala (8), Muktsar Sahib (7), Moga (6), Kapurthala (4), Sangrur (5), Patiala (3), Ferozepur (3), Amritsar (2), Faridkot (2) and Jalandhar (2).

S.N.	Name of wetlands	Area (Ha)	District
1	Veniyake	2.940	Amritsar
2	Tut	5.910	Amritsar
3	Badbar 1	5.340	Barnala
4	Kaleke 1	2.500	Barnala
5	Rajjia	2.790	Barnala
6	Cheema	2.630	Barnala
7	Pakhokae	2.993	Barnala
8	Kattu	7.850	Barnala
9	Badbar 2	4.180	Barnala
10	Kaleke 2	2.450	Barnala
11	Alal	2.810	Sangrur
12	Chelan	6.410	Sangrur
13	Hari ke	2.370	Sangrur
14	Ghanouri	2.550	Sangrur
15	Badshahpur	2.910	Sangrur
16	Dhudhi	2.230	Faridkot
17	Dhurkot	2.330	Faridkot
18	Khote	2.000	Moga
19	Kussa	2.380	Moga
20	Gholla Kalan	2.430	Moga
21	Raunta	2.910	Moga
22	Sekha Kalan	1.870	Moga
23	Smalsar	4.000	Moga
24	Rupana	2.250	Sri Muktsar Sahib
25	Kuraiwala	2.005	Sri Muktsar Sahib
26	Khaneki Dhab	1.690	Sri Muktsar Sahib
27	Khokhar	2.500	Sri Muktsar Sahib
28	Kotbhai	2.500	Sri Muktsar Sahib
29	Faqarsar	2.500	Sri Muktsar Sahib
30	Chibbranwall	2.500	Sri Muktsar Sahib
31	Bhamme Kalan	2.500	Sri Muktsar Sahib
32	Bajewala	3.300	Mansa
		2.770	Mansa

33	Bhadurpur	3.200	Mansa
34	KotDharmu	5.400	Mansa
35	TalwandiAklia	2.970	Mansa
36	KaramgarhAutanwali	3.280	Mansa
37	Jawaharke	3.200	Mansa
38	Biroke Kalan	10.000	Mansa
39	Kotra	3.160	Mansa
40	AtalaKhurd	2.910	Mansa
41	Lalle	3.170	Ferozepur
42	PandoriKhatrian	2.280	Ferozepur
43	Sunehar	2.920	Ferozepur
44	Raipura	3.130	Fazilka
45	Nairanpura	2.350	Fazilka
46	Rajpura	2.590	Fazilka
47	Kubban	3.570	Fazilka
48	Sayadwala	2.960	Fazilka
49	DanewalSatkosi	2.680	Fazilka
50	ChuriwalaDhana	2.750	Fazilka
51	Jamalgarh	3.510	Fazilka
52	Gurdialpura	2.510	Patiala
53	Karhali	3.970	Patiala
54	Balbehra	3.400	Patiala
55	Apra	4.000	Jalandhar
56	Anihar	4.500	Jalandhar
57	Talwara	2.000	Kapurthala
58	Raipur PirBakshWala	2.500	Kapurthala
59	Bariyar	3.600	Kapurthala
60	Kolinwal	1.200	Kapurthala
61	Mehamdipur	1.500	Fatehgarh Sahib
62	Chhlerhi Kalan	1.150	Fatehgarh Sahib
63	Pola	1.040	Fatehgarh Sahib
64	Behlolpur	1.420	Fatehgarh Sahib
65	Chunni Kalan	1.550	Fatehgarh Sahib
66	Kotla	2.400	Fatehgarh Sahib
67	Sanghol	1.100	Fatehgarh Sahib
68	Lakhanpur	0.490	Fatehgarh Sahib
69	Mahmudpur	2.240	Fatehgarh Sahib
70	Badauchhi Kalan	1.770	Fatehgarh Sahib
71	Bhagrana	3.000	Fatehgarh Sahib
72	Salana	3.970	Fatehgarh Sahib

The authority advised that districts like Bathinda, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, Malerkotla, Rupnagar, S.A.S. Nagar, S.B.S Nagar and Tarn Taran need to enhance their efforts by identifying and recommending suitable water bodies within their respective districts.

Waterbody near Power House Sujampur has been recommended to be declared as a wetland in Pathankot district by District Wetland Committee. However, during the discussion Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife) Pathankot

requested the authority that the waterbody at Power House, Sujapur is already notified as Protected Forest under the Forest (Conservation) Act and therefore it is not recommended for declaration as a wetland.

After deliberations, the authority decided not to declare waterbody of the Power House Sujapur (PB000903) as wetland and remaining 72 water bodies were given approval to be declared as Wetland.

On the recommendation of the Chair, the benefits of declaring water bodies as wetlands along with the proposed interventions in these wetlands, were presented to all members and participants. The proposed works included:

- Wastewater treatment in village ponds and the treated water could be utilized for irrigation, supporting soil conservation measures.
- Restoration of waterbody outlets
- Promotion of fish rearing
- Enhancement of tourism facilities
- Install seating, pathways, and observation points and use of eco-friendly structures like bird perches or butterfly gardens to enhance aesthetic and ecological value.
- Active community engagement in these waterbodies and involve local residents in pond maintenance and monitoring.
- Local students would be encouraged to undertake scientific research on aquatic flora and fauna to enhance knowledge and conservation efforts.
- All these efforts will also lead to the improvement of the aquatic biodiversity and recharge water levels.

It was also clarified that the ownership of concerned water bodies will remain the same as before declaring the wetland. The activities to be prohibited, regulated and promoted in the waterbodies will be prepared in coordination with the panchayats.

Superintendent Engineer Ground Water, Department of Water Resources, Punjab raised a query whether after the declaration of wetland there would be any ban on desilting in these waterbodies to which Chief Wildlife Warden explained that there would be no ban on desilting.

Hon'ble Chairman expressed their views that Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve in District Pathankot should be more developed for tourism purposes like for boating facility, board walk, canteen, public utility etc. As desired by Hon'ble Chairman, Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab directed to Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife) Pathankot to conduct feasibility study in collaboration with Tourism department so that the area should be more developed for Tourism.

Item No. 3.5

Regarding the approval of Integrated Management Plan of Beas Conservation Reserve

Chief Wildlife Warden informed the authority members that an Integrated Management Plan of Beas River Conservation Reserve which is also declared as Ramsar Site is prepared with a five-year budget requirement INR 35.45 crores and after the approval of the authority it will be sent to the Ministry of Environment & Forests for funding under the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA). Once reviewed and supported, the IMP will serve as the guiding document for coordinated action by the Forest Department, scientific institutions and civil society partners to ensure the ecological integrity and long-term resilience of the Beas Conservation Reserve. It was also informed to the authority members that this plan emphasizes a holistic, multi-sectoral approach and the key activities of the IMP will include:

- i. Desilting of the wetland as part of habitat management, supported by empirical evidence on sediment load, hydrological dynamics, and ecological thresholds and in compliance with ecological and regulatory requirements.
- ii. Improving the hydrology and the catchment area management for reducing siltation and controlling soil erosion,
- iii. biodiversity conservation (including enhanced research and monitoring),
- iv. pollution control,
- v. sustainable tourism & recreation – promoting eco-tourism, nature education, and regulated recreational use of the lake and strengthening inter-departmental coordination and compliance with legal frameworks

After the deliberation the authority gave its approval for the Integrated Management Plan of Beas River Conservation Reserve for sending it to MoEFCC.

~~i. Desilting of the wetland as part of habitat management, supported by~~
Item No. 3.6 Any Other Item with the permission of the Chair

1. Review of pending declarations of waterbodies as wetlands by District Wetland Committees.

Chief Wildlife Warden instructed the Divisional Forest Officers who have not recommended any water body and also directed to the concerned DFOs that they should meet the local community/Panchayat to clear their doubts regarding change of ownership of land, ongoing activities etc and to make them aware about the positive advantages.

~~2. Impact of Floods on the major wetlands:~~

Nangal, Ropar, Harike and the Beas River Conservation Reserve were discussed stating that they were subjected to high silt deposition, while, flooding also facilitated the mass dispersal of invasive aquatic weeds,

particularly water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), which accumulated in large volumes in wetlands such as Kanjli and Harike. The participants were informed about the rescue operations carried out across multiple wetlands aimed at protecting and safeguarding affected wildlife and people.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

True Copy
Kamaljit Singh
Forest Range Officer
Wildlife Harike