

ACTION HISTORY OF RTI REQUEST No.WLIOI/R/E/21/00011

Applicant Name Ishan

Text of Application Seeking information under the RTI Act, 2005: 1. Has the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued any minutes for Wildlife Institute of India to hold consultations with power companies?
2. If yes, please share the documents.

Reply of Application kindly see the attached cover letter and Annexure-1 to 3

SN.	Action Taken	Date of Action	Action Taken By	Remarks
1	RTI REQUEST RECEIVED	05/02/2021	Nodal Officer	
2	REQUEST FORWARDED TO CPIO	08/02/2021	Nodal Officer	Forwarded to CPIO(s) : (1) P.K.Aggarwal
3	REQUEST DISPOSED OF	16/02/2021	P.K.Aggarwal- (CPIO)	

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**Government of India
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
Wildlife Institute of India
P.O.Box-18, Chandrabani, Dehradun, Uttarakhand,**

Dated: 16/02/2021

To

Shri Ishan
370, Top Floor,
Sant Nagar,
Delhi
110065

Registration Number : WLIOI/R/E/21/00011

Dear Sir/Madam

I am to refer to your Request for Information under RTI Act 2005, received vide letter dated 05/02/2021 and to say that *kindly see the attached cover letter and Annexure-1 to 3.*

In case, you want to go for an appeal in connection with the information provided, you may appeal to the Appellate Authority indicated below within ***thirty days*** from the date of receipt of this letter.

Director, WII

FAA & Director

Address: Wildlife Institute of India Chandrabani Dehradun

Phone No.: 01352646101

Yours faithfully

(P.K.Aggarwal)
CPIO & Deputy Registrar
Phone No.: 01352646110
Email : pka@wii.gov.in

No. WII/RTI/CPIO/2020-21 (Qtr-IV)/96

Date: 16th February, 2021

To,

Mr. Ishan
370, Top Floor,
Sant Nagar, Dehli-110065
Email: ikukreti@gmail.com
Mob.: 08447270352

Sub.: Information under RTI Act, 2005-reg.

Ref.: Your Online RTI No. WLIOI/R/E/21/00011 dated 05.02.2021

Dear Sir,

Please refer to your application cited above under RTI Act, 2005. In this context, the point-wise response to your queries is given below:

S.No.	Information Sought under RTI	Reply under RTI
1.	Has the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued any minutes for Wildlife Institute of India to hold consultations with power companies?	Please see attached Annexure-1, 2 & 3.
2.	If yes, please share the documents	

In case, you are not satisfied with the information provided above, you may file an appeal to the First Appellate Authority indicated below within thirty days from the date of receipt of this letter.

Director, WII
FAA & Director
Address: Wildlife Institute of India, Chandrabani, Dehradun
Phone No.: 01352640910

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,


NO & CPIO (RTI)

F.No.1-8/2020-WL (Pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Wildlife Division)

6th Floor, Vayu Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi-110003.

Date: 1st February, 2021

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:- Finalization of GIB conservation action plan.

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Ministry's OM of even number dated 1st February, 2021 wherein summary records of the meeting convened on 20th January, 2021 under the Chairmanship of DGF&SS were circulated.

2. A decision was taken that the modified draft GIB conservation action plan shall be completed within three weeks' time so that the Order of Hon'ble NGT dated 23rd December, 2020 could be implemented in time.

3. The decision is as follows:

"WII will conduct physical meetings with the State Governments of Rajasthan and Gujarat, Department of Forest and Energy along with the M/o Power, MNRE to formulate an action plan which is technically and financially feasible and based on a clearly defined critical GIB habitat. The modified action plan will be prepared and submitted to the Ministry within 3 weeks' time. The DIGF(WL) will be coordinating the actions for a timely submission of the action plan.

(Action by: MOEFCC/WII)"

4. Director, WII is requested to organize field visit of the concerned Scientist also for physical meetings with representatives of Energy and Forest Departments of Rajasthan and Gujarat and the Ministry of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India at the earliest. The same may preferably be organized on 6th and 7th February, 2021.

5. Secretary, Ministry of Power, Secretary, MNRE, Govt. of India, Additional Chief Secretary (Forest & Environment) Department, Govt. of Gujarat and Principal Secretary (Forest) and Principal Secretary (Energy), Government of Rajasthan are requested to kindly depute a senior officer well versed with the subject for field visit and meeting for the finalization.

**INFORMATION PROVIDED
UNDER RTI**

(Rakesh Kumar Jagenia)
Deputy Inspector General (Wildlife)
E-mail: digwl-mefcc@gov.in
Telefax: 011-24695390

Distribution

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Power, Govt. of India
2. The Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India

[Signature]
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CPIO, Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun

3. The Additional Chief Secretary (Forest and Environment) Department, Govt. of Gujarat.
4. The Principal Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Rajasthan
5. The Principal Secretary (Energy), Govt. of Gujarat.
6. The Principal Secretary (Energy), Govt of Rajasthan.
7. Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

Copy to

Sr. PPS to DGF & SS/PSO to ADGF (WL)/PPS to IGF (WL)/PS to JD (WL)

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**INFORMATION PROVIDED
UNDER RTI**

File No.1-8/2020WL(pt)

F.No. 1-8/2020 WL (Pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Wildlife Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Vayu Wing, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi-110003
Date: 01st February, 2021

Sub: Summary records of the meeting convened on 20th January, 2021 through video conference to finalize the draft GIB conservation action plan and to deliberate on the directions of the Hon'ble NGT's order dated 23.12.2020

The undersigned is directed to enclose the summary records of the meeting convened on 20th January, 2021 through video conference under the Chairmanship of Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF&CC to finalize the draft GIB conservation action plan and deliberate on the directions of the Hon'ble NGT's order dated 23.12.2020.

Rakesh Kumar Jagenia
Deputy Inspector General (Wildlife)
E-mail: digwl-mefcc@gov.in
Telefax: 011- 24695390

Encl. As above

INFORMATION PROVIDED
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Distribution:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Power, Govt. of India.
2. The Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India
3. The Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority, New Delhi.
4. The Principal Secretary, Department of Energy, Govt. of Rajasthan.
5. The Principal Secretary, Department of Energy, Govt. of Gujarat.
6. The Chief Wild Life Warden, Government of Rajasthan.
7. The Chief Wild Life Warden, Government of Gujarat.
8. Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
9. Shri P. Sridhar IFS (Retd.), Ex-PCCF & HoFF, Karnataka

Copy for kind information to:

Sr. PPS to DGF&SS/ PSO to ADGF (WL)/ Sr. PPS to IGF (WL), MoEF&CC.

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Signature Not Verified

Digitally signed by RAKESH
KUMAR JAGANIA

Date: 2021.02.01 13:28:26 IST



Summary records of the meeting convened on 20th January, 2021 through video conferencing to finalize the draft GIB conservation action plan and to deliberate on the directions of the Hon'ble NGT's order dated 23.12.2020

Date: 20th January, 2021

Venue: Krishna Conference Hall,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
MoEF&CC, New Delhi

A meeting was convened on 20th January, 2021 under the Chairmanship of Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF&CC through video conferencing to finalize the draft GIB conservation action plan and deliberate on the directions of the Hon'ble NGT's order dated 23.12.2020. The list of participants is at Annexure.

2. DIG WL, MoEF&CC briefed the members about Hon'ble NGT order dated 23.12.2020 in O.A. No. 385 /2019 in the matter of Centre for Wildlife and Environment Litigation (CWEL) Vs. Union of India &Ors.
3. DGF&SS, MoEF&CC welcomed the participants and initiated the discussion. He explained that the primary objective of the meeting is to have a detailed discussion on the Hon'ble NGT order dated 23-12-2020 in O.A. No. 385 /2019 in the matter of Centre for Wildlife and Environment Litigation (CWEL) Vs. Union of India &Ors. and the actions to be taken to comply with the order. He mentioned that Hon'ble NGT order has disposed of the petition on 23.12.2020 with the following directions:
 - i. Necessary steps be taken for protecting critically endangered GIBs by installing the diverters on all existing power lines and under grounding the new power lines.
 - ii. Monitoring of compliance be done, preferably by the Wildlife Institute of India, at least twice in a year.
 - iii. The Ministry has to submit a time bound action plan on GIB conservation preferably within two months.
 - iv. Undergrounding of transmission lines needs to be ensured for all new projects.
 - v. If consent is not required, even then undergrounding of transmission lines may be ensured. Impact of such projects on biodiversity of the area, especially in the context of GIBs, be undertaken. The MoEF&CC/CPCB/State PCBs may take further action as per action plan suggested by the six-member Committee, appointed by this Tribunal.
4. DGF&SS stressed the need to identify the critical GIB habitat where bird diverters need to be installed and transmission lines need to be made underground. He observed that in addition to Rajasthan and Gujarat, action may be taken by other potential States e.g. Maharashtra and Karnataka to improve potential GIB habitats so that a genetically viable population could be developed in the long run. He said that a viable biological solution which is economically and technical feasible and acceptable by all States needs to be devised. He recalled the strong pitch made by all energy agencies including Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Ministry of Power and Dept. of Energy of Rajasthan that the area around Desert National Park (DNP) is critical for the country for generation of renewable energy, and, therefore, a balance has to be struck between the priorities of wildlife conservation and renewable energy generation and distribution in the country.

5. ADG (WL), MoEFCC observed that it is important to ascertain the critical area for GIB conservation and to consider the technical and economic feasibility of undergrounding power lines in that area. He pointed out that the Committee has been directed by the Hon'ble NGT to prepare an action plan preferably within two months. He suggested that WII, the Ministry of Power and the Energy Department of Rajasthan should come together and assess the critically important area outside the DNP for conservation of GIB. He said that comments of the Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority and Energy Departments of Rajasthan and Gujarat would be required in order to examine the technical and economic feasibility of undergrounding of transmission lines. He also informed that the Ministry is implementing a project for GIB conservation in the States of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
6. Director, WII informed that GIB population in India is less than 150 GIB individuals, and their conservation in India, which holds the only population of this critically endangered large-sized bird, is important. He said that barring a few individuals, almost all the birds are presently found in Rajasthan's desert areas with most of them concentrated in Jaisalmer district. He informed that the major cause of mortality in GIB is collision with power lines which have come up in the desert landscape owing to growth in wind and solar power projects. He said that the key areas of the GIB are the Desert national park and Pokhran field firing range which hold more than two-thirds of its population. He explained that there is considerable movement of GIB between these two areas and hence the intervening area between them, and some buffer area around them, is a priority area for power line mitigation. He said that the best way to mitigate the power lines is undergrounding them.
7. Considering the potential of developing GIB habitat in Karnataka, Dr. P. Sridhar, Ex-PCCF & HoFF, Karnataka who had worked on GIB was invited to this meeting. He said that nesting sites of GIB of sizes 1000-2000 acres in places like Siruguppa, Karnataka need to be identified and enclosed with chain link mesh for protection against common predators like dogs, pigs, jackals etc. He also informed that about 250 acre land was already acquired for Compensatory Afforestation and rest could be taken on lease to develop such an enclosure in the near future. Furthermore, he suggested that crops such as cotton, *jowar*, *tur*, etc may be sown in a portion of the area as the birds are found to nest under such crops. Furthermore, Ranabennur WL Sanctuary was natural habitat for GIB but the population migrated from there. This area's vegetation may be brought to natural composition to attract GIB back. He said that WII, Dehradun could study the habitat and local migration of GIB in Karnataka and suggest interventions required to improve its habitat.
8. Joint Secretary, MNRE mentioned that critical, priority and potential areas need to be defined clearly before undergrounding of power lines and installation of bird diverters is taken up. He said that the recommendations of the Committee should be applicable only to new projects and not retrospectively.
9. Chief Engineer, Central Electricity Authority who represented Ministry of Power stated that the generation of renewable energy from the concerned areas needs to be augmented in order to reduce fossil fuel emissions. He said that the critical habitat of GIB needs to

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be clearly defined so that necessary measures could be taken in the identified area for protection of GIB as well as generation of RE.

10. Director (Technical), Energy Department, Rajasthan informed that the Department has no transmission line inside the Desert National Park (DNP). He said that most of the power lines outside the DNP are AC lines and the birds die mostly due to physical collisions with power lines rather than electrocution. He also mentioned that installation of bird diverters and undergrounding of power lines up to 33 KV have large cost implications. He pointed out that furthermore the bird diverters would also have a recurring annual expenditure as well since a bird diverter would last only 4-5 years and repairs and maintenance will also be needed.
11. Superintending Engineer, OSD Cell, Gujarat Energy Department informed that while it would be difficult to underground all transmission lines, installation of bird diverters can be taken up. He said that the Department has prepared a rough estimate for the installation and further action would be taken once the design of bird diverters was finalized.
12. DGF&SS observed that the Committee should come up with solutions that balance the priorities of GIB conservation and energy security of the country. He said that there is a need to develop better habitat for GIB in other States also so that the overall visibility of species conservation improves significantly.
13. The following actionable points emerged from the meeting:
 - i. WII will conduct physical meetings with the State Government of Rajasthan and Gujarat, Dept. of Forest and Energy along with the M/o Power, MNRE to formulate an action plan which is technically and financially feasible and based on a clearly defined critical GIB habitat. The modified action plan will be prepared and submitted to the Ministry within 3 weeks' time. The DIGF (WL) will be coordinating the actions for a timely submission of the action plan. **(Action by: MOEFCC/WII)**
 - ii. The next meeting of the Committee will be convened after 3 weeks. **(Action by: MoEF&CC)**
 - iii. Chief Secretaries of Governments of Rajasthan and Gujarat will be requested to provide all necessary assistance to the WII for organizing meetings and fieldwork in the States. **(Action by: MoEF&CC)**

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

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CPIO, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

INFORMATION PROVIDED
UNDER RTI

Annexure

List of Participants

1. Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, ADG Wildlife, MoEF&CC.
2. Shri P. Sridhar, IFS (Retd.), Ex-PCCF&HoFF, Karnataka
3. Shri Rohit Tiwari, IGF Wildlife, MoEF&CC.
4. Shri B.P. Yadav, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
5. Shri Sanjay Shrivastava, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Govt. of Gujarat.
6. Shri M.L. Meena, Chief Wild Life Warden, Govt. of Rajasthan.
7. Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
8. Shri Ravinder Gupta, Chief Engineer, Central Electricity Authority
9. Shri Rakesh Kumar Jagenia, Deputy Inspector General of Forest (Wildlife), MoEF&CC.
10. Dr. Y.V. Jhala, Scientist G and Lead Project Investigator, WII-CAMPA-GIB Project
11. Shri R.K Jain, Director (Technical), Energy Department, Govt. of Rajasthan.
12. The Superintendent Engineer, OSD Cell, Energy Department, Govt. of Gujarat.
13. Shri Aditya Bisht, Project Scientist, WII, MoEF&CC

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