

Union Environment Minister chairs 90th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife in Dehradun; key Policy Issues on Wildlife Conservation deliberated

FSI and BISAG-N sign MoU for strengthening use of Geospatial Technologies, Remote Sensing and AI/ML-based tools in Forest Fire Management, Wildlife Conservation

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Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, chaired the 90th meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL), today in Dehradun. The Committee considered proposals across sectors such as roads, drinking water supply, transmission lines, defence, irrigation, and other infrastructures.



During the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between the Forest Survey of India (FSI) and Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) for strengthening the use of geospatial technologies, remote sensing and AI/ML-based tools in forest fire management, wildlife conservation and decision support systems.



The Committee also reviewed progress on the decisions taken in the 7th meeting of the National Board for Wildlife and noted the status of key national initiatives relating to species recovery, habitat management and institutional strengthening.

The Committee deliberated on the issues of environmental flows in River Chambal for sustaining riverine species such as dolphins, gharials and other aquatic fauna, particularly during lean seasons.

The Committee also discussed conservation of grasslands and rangelands, highlighting their importance for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, dryland resilience and pastoral livelihoods. It was observed that these ecosystems remain under-recognised in planning frameworks and require ecosystem-specific restoration approaches, improved mapping, and integration with national commitments such as Land Degradation Neutrality.



The issue of dependence of nomadic and pastoral communities on Protected Areas was also deliberated. The Committee noted the ecological and livelihood linkages of pastoral systems and emphasized the need for balanced approaches for conservation goals while considering traditional practices and socio-economic

dependencies.

During the meeting, conservation status of wild water buffalo was discussed, and the committee recommended a comprehensive conservation action plan for wild water buffalo.

The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife is a statutory body constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and advises the Government on matters relating to conservation and protection of wildlife and forests.

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