

Proceedings of the 5th Combined Meeting of State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), Manipur Held on Tuesday, the 30th September, 2014 in the Office Chamber of the Director, Directorate of Environment.

Members present at Annexure.

Agenda of the meeting:

1. Follow up action of the resolutions taken in the 4th Combined SEIAA & SEAC meeting, held on the 29th August, 2014.
2. Installation of Light & Sound project inside Kangla, Imphal.
3. Projects on Sand and Stone Quarries at 3(three) Forest Divisions namely, Central Division, Western (Tamenglong) Division and Jiribam Forest Division in Manipur.
4. Misc.

At the outset, the Director /Member Secretary of SEIAA, after welcoming the Chairmen, and Members of SEIAA and SEAC, Manipur placed the agenda for discussion.

The discussion started with the developments regarding Resolution No. 5 of 4th Combined Meeting of SLEIAA and SEAC. The no-objection certificates issued by Manipur Pollution Control Board and Department of Forest submitted by the Superintendent of State Archaeology were placed before the members.

In the discussion for Agenda Item no. 2, most of the experts suggested that installation of Light and Sound project at Kangla should not affect the Kangla ecosystem. While taking part in the discussion Prof. Ch. Priyoranjan Singh, Member SEAC, expressed his heartfelt concern about the rapidly diminishing green zones in the Imphal area. He commented that even Mahabali forest is vulnerable and that the Kangla and Manipur University campus withstand the hard pressures of anthropogenic elements. As such the lush green lungs of the heart of Imphal city, Kangla, need relentless conservation efforts.

Dr. Kh. Shamungou Singh, Chairman, SEIAA lamented on the significant role of Kangla as a breeding and resting micro-habitat of migratory and residential birds. He also put forward the view of ever maintaining these ecological services of the vegetation of the Kangla. He opined that the actual project area should not affect the core area of ecological interests.

Dr. H. Nandiram Sharma, Chairman, SEAC expressed his opinion for beautification and development of the Kangla even as the ecological aspects are not disturbed. He suggested the

South-East portion of Kangla to be the preferred area for installation of the proposed Light and Sound project.

While taking part in the discussion of agenda Item No. 3, Prof. W. Vishwanath Singh, who is a re-known expert in fish biodiversity specially in endangered and endemic species in North_East India and in the hill streams and rivers of Manipur, highlighted the ecological vulnerability of the Barak river basin. He pointed out various type localities in the state with Holotype, Syntype and Paratypes species trying hard to withstand the onslaught of anthropogenic pressures. He suggested that very important microhabitats may remain undisturbed for general good and posterity to get a place in international arena with this great repository of fish biodiversity. He expressed the desire for field studies of the project sites to avoid any untoward disturbance to the rich natural heritage of endemic fishes.

Prof. P.Kumar Singh emphasized on similar concerns about the endemic flora of the proposed project areas. He suggested for more number of endemic species for plantation towards proposed eco-regeneration programme associated with the project.

Prof. Ch. Priyoranjan Singh expressed expectation of a viable and functional eco-regeneration program and a well defined EMP. Most of the members suggested for EIA during and after the project period as frequently as possible.

All the Members supplemented the proposal for field survey.

After the discussions the following resolutions were made.

- (i) The 'Light and Sound' project may be implemented without affecting the ecological interests and there should be regular EIA after functioning of the project.
- (ii) The different projects submitted by Forest Department regarding sand and stone quarries may be resolved after field visits tentatively scheduled from 15th October to 15th November, 2014.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-

(Dr.M.Homeshwor Singh)

Director, Directorate of Environment
Govt. of Manipur

&

Member Secretary, SEIAA, Manipur
