

ITEM NO.61

COURT NO.4

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 337/1995

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT LAW WWF 1

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 192/2017 - I A FOR DIRECTION)

WITH

(CONMT.PET.(C) No. 568/2022 in W.P.(C) No. 337/1995 (PIL-W)

Date : 07-08-2023 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B.R. GAVAI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PAMIDIGHANTAM SRI NARASIMHA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRASHANT KUMAR MISHRA

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UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

IA No. 192/2017 – I.A. FOR DIRECTION

1. This application pertains to the issue regarding death of Cheetahs taking place in Kuno National Park.
2. Shri P.C. Sen, learned senior counsel appearing for the applicant submits that the Union of India is not taking

effective steps for preventing the death of cheetahs in Kuno National Park.

3. He further submits that though the Consulting Panel of International Cheetah Experts has been constituted, the said panel is not being consulted. He relies on a letter by Dr. Laurie Marker, CCF, Namibia addressed to the Court stating that she is not being consulted.

4. An affidavit dated 31st July 2023 has been placed on record sworn by Hemant Singh, Assistant Inspector General of Forests (AIGF), National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). It is stated in the affidavit that out of the twenty cheetahs relocated, fourteen have survived and six have died.

6. It is submitted that the figure given in the newspapers is incorrect, inasmuch as the 3 additional deaths reported are out of the 4 cubs born to a trans-located cheetah.

7. The affidavit has Annexure-I dated 25th May 2023 shows that a Cheetah Project Steering Committee consisting of 11 experts in the field of Wildlife has already been constituted. Apart from that Consulting Panel of International Cheetah Experts consisting of 4 experts has also been constituted.

9. Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General appearing for the Union of India makes a specific statement that members on the Consulting Panel of Cheetah Project Steering Committee are being consulted and, in any event, if

there is any lack of communication, all the four experts will be consulted for ensuring that the deaths of the cheetahs are prevented and they are managed in a proper manner.

10. We see no reason to disbelieve the statement made on affidavit. In any case, this is an area which is best left to the experts in the field, inasmuch as this court does not possess any expertise in the said field.

11. As to whether a particular person needs to be nominated on the said Committee or not, is a matter which is exclusively within the domain of the Union of India and we do not wish to thrust any member upon the said Committee.

12. In the affidavit, learned Additional Solicitor General further states that the concerns expressed by the present applicant are also being taken into consideration and sought to be addressed by the Union of India.

13. If the applicant has any further suggestions, the same can be forwarded to the Union of India. We request the Union of India to take into consideration such suggestions in right earnest.

14. With these observations, this application is disposed of.

(DEEPAK SINGH)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(ANJU KAPOOR)
COURT MASTER (NSH)