



**JAMMU AND KASHMIR
COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION
FUND MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING
AUTHORITY**



**ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATIONS
(APO) FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25**

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A. Brief History and past performance

1. Brief description of forests and forestry sector in UT of J&K

The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is well known for its dense forests, snow clad mountains, valleys, meadows, fresh water lakes and springs. Jhelum, Chenab, Tawi and Ravi are the main rivers of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. All principal Western Himalayan conifer and broad-leaved tree species grow in Jammu and Kashmir. Change in vegetation occurs with the change in latitude, elevation and aspect. Some of the main forest types found within the UT are as follows:

i) Sub-Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests

These forests are generally found in the lower Shiwalik formation of Jammu region. The common tree species of this zone are *Acacia catechu*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Albizia* species, *Grewia elastica*, *Bauhinia* species, *Acacia modesta*, *Terminalia* species, etc.

ii) Sub-Tropical Pine Forests

These forests are found in upper Shiwalik formation and outer Himalayas. The common species of this area are *Pinus roxburghii*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Mallotus philippinensis*, *Olea cuspidata*, *Cassia fistula*, *Dodonaea viscosa* and *Berberis*.

iii) Himalayan Moist Temperate Forests

These forests are found in moist temperate regions of J&K. The common species are *Cedrus deodara*, *Pinus wallichiana*, *Picea smithiana*, *Abies pindrow*, *Juglans regia* and *Quercus* species.

iv) Himalayan Dry Temperate Forests

These forests are found in drier aspects of temperate regions of J&K. The common tree species are *Cedrus deodara*, *Pinus wallichiana*, *Picea smithiana*, *Abies pindrow* and *Taxus baccata* with broad leaved species like *Juglans regia*, *Acer*, *Betula*, *Rhododendron*, *Parrotiopsis jacquemontiana*, Chinar, Popular and Willow.

v) Alpine Forests

These forests are situated well above the main temperate zones. The common species in this zone are Juniper, *Betula*, *Rhododendron* and variety of wild flowers and grasses.

Total forest area of the UT of J&K is 20,19,459 ha which is 47.80 % of the total geographical area of the UT.

Territorial forest circle-wise forest area of the UT of J&K is as under:

| S.No. | Name of Circle | Area (ha) |
|----------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| A | Kashmir Region | |
| 1 | North Circle | 215019 |
| 2 | Srinagar Circle | 313940 |
| 3 | South Circle | 283877 |
| | Total Kashmir Region | 812836 |
| B | Jammu Region | |
| 4 | East Circle | 291430 |
| 5 | West Circle | 359795 |
| 6 | Chenab Circle | 555398 |
| | Total Jammu Region | 1206623 |
| | G. Total (A+B) | 2019459 |

As per the Working Plans of J&K, a total of 3535 Sq. Km of forest area is under various stages of degradation and has been recommended for rehabilitation under '**Rehabilitation/Reboisement Working Circle**'. Some of the forests which were earlier well-stocked have also degraded over a period of time and are being rehabilitated under CAMPA.

The assessment of degraded forest areas has revealed two categories of degradation forests i.e. 'highly degraded' and 'degraded' forests (totaling 2150 sq. km) in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, which is 10.65% of recorded forests. The department shall be treating the 'highly degraded' forest area (1161 sq. km) and 'degraded' forest area (989 sq. km) to restore the ecological function of the forests.

In 1996, Hon'ble Supreme Court imposed a complete ban on felling of green trees from forests of Jammu and Kashmir. In compliance to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, an expert committee (Qualitative and Quantitative Norms Committee) was constituted by the department. The committee recommended 67.09 Lakh cft + 20% as availability of dry and fallen timber per annum, which can be extracted from forests of J&K. Thus, the department is mainly focused on rehabilitation of degraded forests through assisted natural regeneration and artificial regeneration by employing different plantation models. Owing to mountainous terrain of the UT, it is also necessary to carry out soil and moisture conservation measures.

Main drivers of degradation of forests in J&K

The forests of J&K are under tremendous pressure to meet increasing demands for fodder, grazing, small timber and other forest produce due to rapid increase in human and livestock population. The human population of J&K has increased from about 1.01 crore in 2001 to 1.25 crore in 2011, recording a decadal growth of 23.71%. Moreover,

rearing of livestock, particularly in upper reaches of J&K, contributes significantly to the local economy. The UT has a high density of livestock population, which is estimated to be 0.93 Crore including Ladakh, as per 2012 census. A large part of this population is mainly dependent on forests for grazing, especially the livestock with nomadic population. As per an assessment, the grazing intensity in forests is much higher than the permissible level. Due to continuous unrestricted grazing, some of the forests of J&K have become deficient in natural regeneration. Therefore, fencing is essential to protect the forest areas taken up for rehabilitation and restocking under different interventions and such areas need total protection from grazing till they get established.

Management of Protected areas

The UT of Jammu and Kashmir has immense diversity of flora and fauna. During the Rule of Maharaja, a number of areas were kept as Shikargahs or Rakhs for hunting. With the enactment of Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Protection Act 1978, conservation efforts were legalized by declaring National Parks, Sanctuaries and Game Reserves by the Government. The erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife Protection Act 1978 was amended in the year 2002 and brought at par with Indian Wildlife Act. With the enactment of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, the Central Act i.e., Indian Wildlife Act 1972 has become applicable to Jammu and Kashmir w.e.f. 31st Oct, 2019.

At present, the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife Department is undertaking wildlife management and conservation activities in 3 National Parks, 14 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 30 Conservation Reserves, which includes 14 Wetland Conservation Reserves. The area under wildlife protection network in UT of J&K is 4898.34 Sq. kms, which is 11.8% of geographical area (within LOC) of UT of J&K.

With the increase in human and livestock population as well as increasing developmental activities, forest as well as wildlife areas have come under tremendous pressure. This has resulted in increase in human-animal conflict. The department has to undertake various protection and conservation activities for the wildlife management in these areas and address the issues of human-animal conflict resolution, both inside and outside Protected Areas.

2. Jammu and Kashmir Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (J&K CAMPA)

Transfer of forest land for non-forest purposes is being regulated since 01.12.2023 under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and

prior to that under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980; prior to that (before implementation of Reorganization of J&K Act, 2019) it was regulated under the Jammu and Kashmir Forest (Conservation) Act, 1997. User agencies are required to pay cost of Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of the forest land diverted for non-forest purposes. Besides, the value of ecosystem goods and services of forests, termed 'Net Present Value' or NPV is charged from user agencies. In respect of diversion of lands in Protected Areas, additional charges, as recommended by the National Wildlife Board, are levied from the user agencies.

In accordance with the guidelines issued by *ad hoc* CAMPA, MoEF&CC on 02.07.2009, J&K CAMPA was set up vide SRO-354 dated 11.11.2009. The execution of CAMPA works in J&K started from the year 2010-11.

Later, based on the orders and directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs. Union of India and Others [Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995] dated the 30 October 2002, the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016 was notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India on 03.08.2016 and the CAF Rules, 2018 were notified on 10.8.2018; and both came into force with effect from 30.09.2018 in the whole of India except the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir.

With coming into force of the CAF Act 2016, *ad hoc* CAMPA was dissolved and National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (National Authority) was constituted.

In order to bring J&K CAMPA rules in consonance with the CAF Act 2016 and the CAF Rules 2018, the Jammu and Kashmir Compensatory Afforestation Fund (J&K CAF) Rules, 2018, incorporating relevant provisions of the both, with some state specific modifications, were framed. These rules were notified vide SRO-628 dated 24 December 2018.

Subsequent to reorganization of the State of J&K into the UTs of J&K and Ladakh, these rules were replaced with the CAF Act 2016 and the CAF Rules 2018 with effect from 31 October 2019.

Besides, the MoEF&CC has also notified Compensatory Afforestation Fund (Accounting Procedure) Rules, 2018 vide Notification No.GSR-1133 (E) dated

20 November 2018 (under the CAF Act 2016) which are also applicable to the UT of J&K with effect from 31 October 2019.

Consequent upon extension of the CAF Act 2016 and the rules made thereunder to the UT of J&K, the Central Government has notified establishment of J&K Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (State Authority) and Ladakh Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority in terms of Section-10 of the CAF Act, 2016, vide Notification dated 8 January 2020.

Further, in terms of Section-4 of the CAF Act 2016, the Union Territory of J&K has notified establishment of State Fund (Compensatory Afforestation Fund) under its interest-bearing public account vide Notification dated 29 November 2019.

Till coming into force of the CAF Act 2016 and the CAF Rules 2018, the NPV amount received by J&K CAMPA from user agencies used to be transferred to *ad hoc* CAMPA, which in turn used to release money equivalent to 10% of the principal amount lying to the credit of J&K CAMPA with that Authority for execution of works as per Annual Plan of Operations.

Since notification of the State Fund under public account, the money received from user agencies in lieu of diversion of forest lands for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the money received from the National Authority are being deposited in the said public account. CAMPA expenditure is also being incurred from the said account.

Constitution of National Authority and State Authorities

The National Authority has been constituted to manage and utilize the National Fund for the purpose of the CAF Act, 2016. The National Authority consists of a governing body headed by Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GOI, and is assisted by an executive committee, monitoring group and support mechanism. The executive committee of the National Authority is headed by the Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, MOEF&CC, GOI.

The State Authority consists of a governing body and is assisted by a steering committee and an executive committee. The Governing body is headed by the Chief Minister (or Lt Governor for the UT of J&K during the President's rule) and Ministers/officers as ex-officio members, and Principal Secretary (Forest) as Member Secretary (Composition: Section 10 (5) of the CAF Act 2016)

Governing body is assisted by the following committees:

- a. The Steering Committee headed by Chief Secretary with official (ex-officio) members from various departments, and one non-official member – an expert on tribal matters/representative of tribal communities (Composition: Section 11 (2) of the CAF Act 2016)
- b. The Executive Committee headed by the PCCF with official (ex officio) members from various departments and following non-official members (Composition: Section 11 (3) of the CAF Act 2016): two eminent NGOs, two representatives of district level Panchayati Raj Institutions, and one expert on tribal matters/representative of tribal communities

Utilization of monies in the State Fund

Procedure for utilization of funds

- **Compensatory Afforestation (CA) money**

In respect of monies received from user agencies for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) including additional & penal CA, funds are utilized as per the project-wise CA amount received and approved CA plan.

- **Procedure for utilization of Net Present Value (NPV) money for Forest & Wildlife Management**

- I. As per the CAF Rules, 2018, not less than 80% of the NPV money is used for the forest and wildlife management activities covered under Rule 5 (2). The forest and wildlife management component includes assisted natural regeneration and artificial regeneration, silvicultural operations, protection and maintenance of plantations and forests, pest and disease control in forest, forest fire prevention and control operations, soil conservation works in forests, improvement of wildlife habitat, management of rescue center for wild animals and management of biological diversity & biological resources.
- II. Not more than 20% of the NPV money is utilized for forest and wildlife related infrastructure and capacity building activities listed under Rule 5 (3) of the CAF Rules, 2018. The activities include purchase and maintenance of equipment or devices used for communication and information technology; construction, up-gradation and maintenance of inspection paths, forest roads, fire lines, watch towers, check posts and timber depots; construction of residential and official buildings in forests for frontline staff (Range Officer and below); casual engagement of local people or labourers to assist the regular staff for works for protection of forests and wildlife; independent monitoring and evaluation including third



party monitoring; publicity and awareness of CAMPA programmes/schemes; survey and mapping for preparation of APO, and capacity building of front-line staff.

- **Site Specific – Integrated Wildlife Management Plan in respect of monies received from diversion of forest lands in Protected Areas (National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries)**

Wildlife Protection Department utilizes funds for wildlife conservation and related infrastructure development and capacity building in accordance with the site-specific plan approved at the time of diversion of land in Protected Areas.

- **Procedure for utilization of interest money**

Rule- 6 of CAF Rules, 2018 provide for manner in which interest accrued on the deposits in the State Fund shall be utilised. Rule 6 (a) provides that not less than 60% of the accrued interest shall be utilised on forest and wildlife conservation activities and for meeting salary and allowances of regular and contractual staff of CAMPA. Rule 6 (b) provides that not more than 40% of the interest on deposits in the State Fund shall be spent for meeting the non-recurring and recurring expenditure of the State Authority on management of office expenses, purchase of office equipment, hiring of staff car and other contingency.

Components of the Annual Plan of Operation (APO)

- a) APO for utilization of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) including additional CA (e.g. road side avenue plantation) and penal CA money as per the site-specific plan approved at the time of clearance of the proposal under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. It may be noted here that under the J&K FC Act 1997 which was in force till 30 October 2019, the site-specific plans for CA were not prepared; instead a lump sum money for CA was charged in each case of forest land diversion from the user agency concerned. After coming into force of the FC Act 1980, since 31 October 2019, site-specific CA plans are being prepared.
- b) Site-specific plan approved at the time of Wildlife clearance for land diversion proposals involving Protected Areas.
- c) APO for utilization of Net Present Value (NPV) including penal NPV money for forest management as per the CAF Rules, 2018.

d) APO for utilisation of NPV money for Wildlife Management in accordance with the approved management plan for Protected Areas as per the CAF Rules, 2018.

3. Compensatory afforestation, other forestry and related schemes (physical and financial) including catchment area treatment, wildlife management and community developed works and activities carried out thereunder in J&K utilizing CAMPA Fund.

(i) Expenditure under CAMPA

A total expenditure of Rs 1067.74 Crore has been incurred in last 13 years (from 2010-11 to end of March 2023), which includes ₹ 875.57 Crore by the Forest and allied Departments and ₹ 192.17 Crore by Wildlife Protection Department. During FY 2022-23, against the total approved outlay of ₹ 312.69 Crore, the total expenditure ending March 2023 was ₹ 177.43 Crore.

Year-wise expenditure incurred under CAMPA by J&K Forest & Allied Departments and Wildlife Protection Department

(₹ In lakh)

| S.No. | Year | Expenditure | | Total |
|-------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| | | Forest & Allied Department | Wildlife Protection Department | |
| 1 | 2010-11 | 1875.00 | 13.97 | 1888.97 |
| 2 | 2011-12 | 3692.00 | 85.97 | 3777.97 |
| 3 | 2012-13 | 3803.00 | 377.15 | 4180.15 |
| 4 | 2013-14 | 5901.00 | 618.88 | 6519.88 |
| 5 | 2014-15 | 5204.00 | 1319.35 | 6523.35 |
| 6 | 2015-16 | 4578.00 | 417.34 | 4995.34 |
| 7 | 2016-17 | 5208.00 | 971.63 | 6179.63 |
| 8 | 2017-18 | 8734.00 | 3090.86 | 11824.86 |
| 9 | 2018-19 | 5558.41 | 2195.73 | 7754.14 |
| 10 | 2019-20 | 7420.27 | 3931.07 | 11351.34 |
| 11 | 2020-21 | 9667.22 | 1601.00 | 11261.00 |
| 12 | 2021-22 | 10566.59 | 2207.45 | 12774.05 |
| 13 | 2022-23 | 15363.57 | 2386.00 | 17743.00 |
| | Total | 87571.06 | 19216.4 | 106773.68 |

(ii) Physical achievements under CAMPA

CAMPA is playing a key role in rehabilitation of degraded forests of J&K. The year wise physical achievements during the period of implementation of J&K CAMPA from 2010-11 to 2022-23 are as shown in the following tabular statement.

| S. No. | Year | Component | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---|
| | | Area Treated (In Hectares) | Fencing (In lakh ft) | Plant Production (No. in lakh) | Planting (in lakh) | Soil Conservation Works | | | Demarcation work (No. of Boundary Pillars installed) |
| | | | | | | DRSM (In Cum) | Crates (In Nos) | WHS/ Ponds (In Nos) | |
| 1 | 2010-11 | 2885 | 9.10 | 45.44 | 18.30 | 21996 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 2011-12 | 5196 | 15.29 | 55.36 | 37.31 | 27315 | 0 | 0 | 890 |
| 3 | 2012-13 | 5153 | 15.43 | 41.06 | 47.80 | 28206 | 0 | 0 | 1978 |
| 4 | 2013-14 | 7612 | 24.91 | 61.80 | 54.52 | 35290 | 991 | 0 | 4075 |
| 5 | 2014-15 | 5396 | 16.13 | 86.92 | 35.51 | 27726 | 279 | 0 | 5007 |
| 6 | 2015-16 | 5158 | 18.01 | 60.20 | 44.57 | 17587 | 704 | 0 | 3573 |
| 7 | 2016-17 | 4637 | 15.25 | 85.66 | 30.39 | 18680 | 436 | 0 | 3129 |
| 8 | 2017-18 | 5076 | 18.86 | 50.84 | 31.93 | 6659 | 459 | 0 | 12064 |
| 9 | 2018-19 | 4276 | 17.15 | 30.87 | 30.88 | 2478 | 187 | 7 | 3542 |
| 10 | 2019-20 | 6636 | 23.14 | 55.36 | 37.06 | 13679 | 1204 | 21 | 2879 |
| 11 | 2020-21 | 12474 | 40.58 | 79.82 | 67.78 | 48330 | 2293 | 132 | 7176 |
| 12 | 2021-22 | 9495 | 34.26 | 65.05 | 60.05 | 32227 | 2701 | 383 | 9669 |
| 13 | 2022-23 | 12349 | 47.46 | 107.66 | 68.53 | 89235 | 5483 | 417 | 12105 |
| | Total | 86343 | 295.57 | 826.04 | 564.63 | 369408 | 14737 | 960 | 66087 |

In addition, infrastructure for front line staff which includes 42 Range Offices, 56 Block Offices, 22 Check Posts, 48 Guard Huts, 12 Chowkidar Huts and 17 Inspection Huts have been constructed from CAMPA fund during 2010-11 to 2022-23.

4. Forestry and other related schemes (physical and financial) and activities carried out there under in J&K in previous years utilizing the funds received under other schemes of the Government.

Statement showing physical & financial achievements under CAPEX, District Sector and NAP schemes during the last five years i.e., 2016-17 to 2022-23 is as under:

| S.No. | Year | Allocation (₹ in lakh) | Financial achievement (₹ in lakh) | Physical Achievements | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | Area (In ha.) | Plantation (In lakh Nos) |
| 1. CAPEX | | | | | |
| 1 | 2016-17 | 705.00 | 699.66 | 918 | 7.84 |
| 2 | 2017-18 | 975.00 | 951.92 | 777 | 6.77 |
| 3 | 2018-19 | 894.00 | 719.49 | 847 | 6.28 |
| 4 | 2019-20 | 632.00 | 454.41 | 717 | 5.00 |
| 5 | 2020-21 | 1467.00 | 1157.95 | 919 | 8.63 |
| 6 | 2021-22 | 1700.00 | 1174.18 | 488 | 12.50 |
| 7 | 2022-23 | 2500.00 | 387.36 | 465 | 10.31 |
| | Total | 8873.00 | 5544.97 | 5131 | 57.33 |

| S.No. | Year | Allocation (₹ in lakh) | Financial achievement (₹ in lakh) | Physical Achievements | |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | Area (In ha.) | Plantation (In lakh Nos) |
| 2. District Sector | | | | | |
| 1 | 2016-17 | 308.42 | 293.15 | 825.00 | 4.33 |
| 2 | 2017-18 | 299.90 | 278.35 | 825.00 | 4.33 |
| 3 | 2018-19 | 308.56 | 287.20 | 557.00 | 2.30 |
| 4 | 2019-20 | 223.55 | 198.76 | 469.00 | 2.45 |
| 5 | 2020-21 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6 | 2021-22 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7 | 2022-23 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Total | 1140.43 | 1057.46 | 2676 | 13.41 |
| 3. NAP | | | | | |
| 1 | 2016-17 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 2017-18 | 782.35 | 159.14 | 2894.00 | 0.00 |
| 3 | 2018-19 | | 466.30 | 3509.00 | 6.08 |
| 4 | 2019-20 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5 | 2020-21 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6 | 2021-22 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7 | 2022-23 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Total | 782.35 | 625.44 | 6403 | 6.08 |
| 4. GIM | | | | | |
| 1 | 2016-17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 2017-18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 2018-19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | 2019-20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 2020-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | 2021-22 | 2605.50 | 1368.315 | 2386 | 4.40 |
| 7 | 2022-23 | | 463.01 | 357 | 3.10 |
| | Total | 2605.50 | 1831.325 | 2743 | 7.50 |

5. Year-wise total forest area diverted and compensatory afforestation carried out in various forest divisions of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir

Year-wise total forest area diverted and compensatory afforestation carried out in various forest divisions of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir is at annexure-1.

A total of 13903 ha of forest land have been diverted for non-forest purposes during the period from 1990 till 30 October 2019 under J&K Forest (Conservation) Act, 1997. Further, in-principle (Stage-I) approval for diversion of a total of 1848.71 ha has been granted (ending February 2024) under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 after its coming into force in the UT of J&K w.e.f. 31 October 2019. Out of this, final (Stage-II) approval has been accorded for 355.41 ha. The Forest Department is required to carry out afforestation over equivalent non-forest land or treat double in extent the degraded forest areas, as per the