


Government of India
Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change
(National Authority)
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Block No.3, 4th Floor, CGO Complex
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Dated 29th January, 2021

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

The undersigned is directed to enclose a copy of the minutes of the 9th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority held on 12TH January, 2021 at 1145 hrs through video-conferencing under the Chairmanship of Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for information and necessary action.


(Ajeeta Longjam) | 29/01/2021

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Distribution:

1. Pr. PS to Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, GoI;
2. PS to CEO, National Authority, MoEF&CC, GoI;
3. PS to ADGF (Forest Conservation), MoEF&CC, GoI;
4. PS to ADGF (Wildlife), MoEF&CC, GoI;
5. PS to Mission Director, National Mission for a Green India, MoEF&CC, GoI;
6. PS to AS&FA, MoEF&CC, GoI;
7. Head of all Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC,
(Chandigarh/Dehradun/Lucknow/Ranchi/Bhubaneswar/Shillong/Chennai/Bengaluru/
Nagpur/Bhopal).
8. IGF (FC), MoEF&CC, GoI.

Copy for information to:

1. IGF (Survey & Utilization/Forest Protection/Wildlife & Forest Policy/National Afforestation & Eco-development Board/Project Elephant & ROHQ), MoEF&CC, GoI;
2. DIG (RT), MoEF&CC, GoI;
3. Sr. Technical Director, NIC, MoEF&CC. (with a request to arrange for videoconferencing at the stipulated date and time);
4. Consultant IT/US-IT.

Minutes of the Meeting

9th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority

Venue: Through Video Conferencing

Time: 1145 hrs. onwards

Date: 12th January, 2021

List of members and other participants who attended the meeting is attached.

At the outset, the CEO, National Authority welcomed the Chairman and the members of the Executive Committee (EC) and other participants present in the meeting. In his opening remark, DGF & SS referred to the DO letter dated 22nd October, 2020 of HMEFCC, Government of India addressed to Hon'ble Chief Ministers/ LGs of respective States/UTs and emphasised that restoration of loss of trees, wildlife, forest land and ecosystem services remain the prime objective of CAMPA funds and other activities/programmes/schemes of forest and wildlife management that are the routine mandate of State Forest Department should continue to be funded with State Plan or other Centrally Sponsored schemes. In addition, minimum 80% of State CAMPA fund (irrespective of CA, NPV and Interest) should be used for activities related to development of forest and wildlife (e.g. regeneration through afforestation, restoration of degraded forest, catchment area treatment and wildlife habitat improvement) and the remaining maximum 20% should be utilised for other permissible infrastructure works including strengthening of forest and wildlife-related infrastructure and capacity building of personnel involved in utilisation of State Fund as envisioned in Rule 5 and 6 of the CAF Rules, 2018. He further advised the States to ensure not to include large items of expense on vehicle, building, general surveys, and infrastructure-related works in the APOs justifying them as work related to forest and wildlife management. He again reminded that CAMPA funds are accruing due to loss of forests and should be treated as an additionality and not as a substitute to the regular budget provided to State Forest Departments. With the permission of the chair, the agenda items were taken up for discussion.

Agenda Item No. 1

Confirmation of Minutes of 8th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority

Decision: The minutes of 8th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority circulated vide OM of even No. dated 02.09.2020 was confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 2

Confirmation of Action Taken Report on 8th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority

Decision: The Action Taken Report on the decisions of 8th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority were perused and noted.

Agenda Item No.3

Confirmation of Minutes of School Nursery Yojana circulated through letter no. NA-13/7/2020-NA dated the 6th November, 2020

Decision: The minutes of the meeting were confirmed.

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Agenda Item No.4

APO for the year 2020-21 of Arunachal Pradesh State CAMPA

Decision: The Arunachal Pradesh State CAMPA vide their letter no. FOR/03/CAMPA/2020/1577 dated 28.09.2020 submitted a consolidated APO for 2019-20 & 2020-21. The APO was approved by the State Steering Committee in its meeting held on 12.08.2020 for a total outlay of Rs. 316.74 crores. Deficiencies observed in the APO were communicated to the State CAMPA. It was inter alia intimated that separate APOs for year 2019-20 and 2020-21 were required to be submitted timely and APO for 2019-20 would be considered for ex-post-facto approval for permissible activities already undertaken on actual basis as per guidelines issued by the Ministry and activities not initiated during 2019-20 would not be considered. In reply, the State CAMPA have informed that no works have been taken up either against the APO for 2019-20 or 2020-21 as they have not been approved and requested for their approval. In such a scenario, there is no justification for approving APO for 2019-20, as all works need to be included in APO of 2020-21. The APO for 2020-21 was placed before the EC for consideration. The EC noted that the APO consisted of a number of non-permissible activities. The EC also noted that activities, namely site preparation, nursery raising etc. could still be undertaken during January to March 2021. In addition, the APO should comply with the 80:20 conditions explained in the opening para of the minutes. Chairman directed that officers of National Authority help CEO State Authority so that the APO could be recast quickly and the matter may be placed before the next EC. PCCF (HoFF) will also arrange a compliance report regarding depositing unspent balance in the State Compensatory Afforestation Fund (State Fund) as per of D.O. No. 9//2020-NA dated 22.12.2020 of HMEFCC.

Agenda Item No. 5

Consideration of Deferred and Non-Permissible Activities: APO (2020-21) of Maharashtra State CAMPA

Decision: The EC approved the deferred Soil Moisture Conservation works amounting to Rs 65 crore of APO (2020-21) as per revised details submitted by the State CAMPA vide their letter no. CAMPA/C.R.05/374/2020-21 dated 1st December, 2020 and letter number Desk-CAMPA/C.R. 05/2020-21/452 dated 07.01.2021 subject to 80:20 conditions explained in the opening para of the minutes and advised the state to submit the recast APO to the National Authority for approval.

Agenda Item No. 6

Consideration of Deferred and Non-Permissible Activities: APO (2020-21) of Goa State CAMPA

Decision: The EC did not agree to the request of the State CAMPA submitted vide their letter No. For.6804/STER/COMM/CAMPA/FD/3026 dated 26.10.2020 to approve the setting up of Nature Education Centres at a cost of Rs. 1.87 crore at 4 wildlife sanctuaries, which was kept on hold/deferred at the time of the approval of the APO for 2020-21. The State was advised to fund the above activities from other sources and not from CAMPA.

Agenda Item no. 7

Consideration of Deferred and Non-Permissible Activities: APO (2020-21) of Andamans & Nicobar State CAMPA

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Decision: The EC did not agree to the request of the State CAMPA submitted vide their letter No. FCA/CAMPA/2/74 dated 26.06.2020 and PCCF/STATE CAMPA/9/253 dated 08.10.2020 to approve the procurement of camping equipment, motor-cycles, four wheelers, mini trucks, water tankers, dingy etc. and construction of toilets and change rooms at different beaches at a cost of Rs 8.10 lakh, which was deferred at the time of the approval of the APO for 2020-21. The State was advised to fund the above activities from other sources and not from CAMPA.

Agenda Item No. 8

Consideration of Deferred and Non-Permissible Activities: APO (2020-21) of Punjab State CAMPA

Decision Taken: The EC did not agree to the proposal of the State CAMPA submitted vide their letter no. State Authority/2020-21/SPL/120 dated 22.09.2020 regarding construction of cattle pond (Bara) amounting to Rs 1.50 crore and the revised proposal vide letter no. State Authority/2020-21/SPL/1834 dated 29.10.2020 regarding Management of Zoological Parks, Mini Zoos, and Deer Parks at a cost of Rs 3.99 crore (earlier Rs 6.53 crore), which were deferred at the time of the approval of the APO for 2020-21. The State was advised to fund the above activities from other sources and not from CAMPA.

Agenda Item No. 9

Consideration of Deferred and Non-Permissible Activities: APO (2020-21) of Telangana State CAMPA

Decision: The EC did not agree to the proposal of the PCCF (HoFF), Government of Telangana received vide her letter no. 18595/CAMPA/2019 dated 20.11.2020 regarding construction of high cost protection structures in forest blocks and urban forest blocks at a cost of Rs 87.82 crore and at Medchal-Yadgarpally RF-I & II at a cost of Rs 4.97 crore. The PCCF (HoFF) justified the proposed structures, especially in urban forest blocks, which are vulnerable to encroachments due to high cost of land. She informed that it is not possible to cover these areas under Nagar Van Scheme. The EC noted that this may be a common problem in many States/UTs and felt the need to formulate a new scheme for the protection of such forest land from the National Fund. The State was advised to re-submit the proposal thereafter to the National Authority for consideration. Establishment of a CAMPA Monitoring Hall at a cost of Rs 3.00 crore was also deferred. The State was advised to fund it from other sources and not from CAMPA.

Agenda Item No. 10

Consideration of Deferred and Non-Permissible Activities: APO (2020-21) of Karnataka State CAMPA

Decision Taken: The EC considered the proposal of the State CAMPA submitted vide their letter no. APCCF/(CAMPA)/BUD/CR-41/2020-21 dated the 17th October 2020 regarding deferred activities amounting to Rs 43.69 crore and activities not agreed to amounting to Rs 51.80 crore pertaining to APO (2020-21) of Karnataka State CAMPA. Issues related to deferred activities were discussed and the EC noted that since all the submitted activities have been clubbed, the State to submit the activities item-wise. The EC will consider for approval when the revised proposal is submitted as per the 80:20 principle explained in the

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opening para of the minutes. Activities not agreed to amounting to Rs 51.80 crore were not considered. The State was advised to fund them from other sources and not from CAMPA.

Agenda No. 11

Approval for use of a saving of Rs. 37.95 crore: APO (2020-21) of Uttar Pradesh State CAMPA

Decision Taken: The EC considered the proposal submitted by the State CAMPA vide their letter no. 773/2-37-2 dated 24.12.2020. The overall proposal that was approved in the fourth meeting of the State Steering Committee held on 11.01.2021 was given in-principle approval by the EC subject to 80:20 conditions explained in the opening para of the minutes. The State would submit the accordingly recasted item-wise APO to the National Authority for approval.

Agenda No. 12

Approval regarding clearing claims of liabilities amounting to Rs 7.681 crore: APO (2019-20) of Jammu & Kashmir State CAMPA.

Decision: The EC considered the proposal submitted by the State CAMPA vide their letter no. PCCF/CAMPA/1109/3124-25 dated 23.10.2020. As a matter of general principle, any APO expires at the end of the respective year. Therefore, the EC advised the CEO, State CAMPA to include the proposal either in a Supplementary APO (2020-21) or in the fresh APO (2021-22).

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Additional/ Supplementary APO (2020-21): Uttarakhand State CAMPA

Decision: The Uttarakhand CAMPA vide their letter no. 663/GoI/2020-21 dated 19.10.2020 submitted a Supplementary APO (2020-21) for a total financial outlay of Rs 262.49 crore. The APO was approved by the State Steering Committee in its meeting held on 12.10.2020. The above is in addition to already approved APO (2020-2021) for Rs 255.09 crore. Against this, the State has released fund amounting to Rs 185.86 crore and the total cumulative expenditure was Rs 110.66 crore (43%) as per the latest progress report. Against a total proposed plantation of 6141.47 Ha, the achievement is 5161.64 Ha (84%). The State CAMPA informed that they have an unspent balance of around Rs 80.00 crore, which is sufficient for implementation of previously approved APO (2020-21) and the balance activities of 2019-20. The above act of the State CAMPA is contrary to the directions issued to the State Government vide Ministry's letter no. NA-15/1/2020-NA dated 15.07.2020. The State CAMPA will receive remaining amount under Supplementary Budget for 2020-21 based on the approval of the National Authority. With the above proposal, the total size of the APO (2020-21) will become Rs 487.58 crore.

The focus of the Supplementary APO for 2020-21 is on soil & moisture conservation and protection of forest and wildlife. The EC noted, however, that in respect of many proposed activities (e.g. Assisted Natural Regeneration, Artificial regeneration, Management of Biological Diversity & Biological Resources, Protection of Bugyals etc.), just a lump-sum amount has been mentioned and wherever unit cost is furnished, the basis of cost estimation has not been specified. The work of forest protection and SMC needs to directly relate to regeneration of forests with quantifiable monitoring parameters. Activities proposed regarding Corbett are required to be referred to National Tiger Conservation Authority for their opinion/comments. Activities like Establishment of Eco Clubs in 2000 schools and

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Establishment of Eco Clubs/Nature Parks may not be permissible under CAF, Rules. In addition, the APO should comply with the 80:20 conditions explained in the opening para of the minutes. The EC advised the CEO, State CAMPA to resubmit the revised Supplementary APO 2020-21 as discussed at the earliest so that the same could be considered in the next EC meeting being scheduled shortly.

Agenda Item No: 14

Additional APO (2020-21): Chhattisgarh State CAMPA:

Decision: The Chhattisgarh CAMPA has submitted an Additional APO (2020-21) for a total financial outlay of 416.28 crore after the approval of the State Steering Committee. The above is in addition to already approved APO (2020-2021) for Rs 963.24 crore. Against this, the State has released fund amounting to Rs 441.39 crore, which is also the total cumulative expenditure (45%). The State CAMPA has achieved the total proposed plantation target of 6103.98 Ha. With the above proposal, the total size of the APO (2020-21) will become Rs 1379.52 crore. The State Authority CEO clarified during the meeting that the State Finance Department has assured to provide matching budget to the remaining extent of the approved APO of 2020-21 as well as Supplementary APO proposed now in view of the need to provide employment to large number of migrants.

The EC noted that the focus of the Additional APO for 2020-21 is on soil & moisture conservation (Rs 290 crore), high cost protection structures (Rs 26.84 crore), IT/Office Automation (Rs 5.00 crore) and Rs 3.38 crore for afforestation activities. The EC noted that the work of Soil and Moisture Conservation needs to directly relate to regeneration of forests with quantifiable monitoring parameters. The EC also noted that the proposal for wetland conservation will require opinion/comments of Wetland Division of the Ministry. Viewing limited time period available in financial year 2020-21, the EC observed that the remaining activities of the approved APO (2020-21) may first be completed. At the same time the EC agreed 'in principle' that advance work for additional afforestation activities and forest regeneration may be taken up during the CFY subject to condition that the State Authority immediately submits a revised proposal for Supplementary APO 2020-21 complying with the overall 80:20 conditions explained in the opening para of the minutes so that the same could be considered in the next EC meeting being scheduled shortly.

Agenda Item No. 15

Proposal for "Maintenance, Enhancement and Upgradation of Forest Clearance Module of PARIVESH".

Decision: The EC considered the proposal submitted by the FC Division regarding sourcing of manpower support through NICS I at a cost of Rs 2,31,96,128/- for the period 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021 for funding from the National Authority. This is an ongoing proposal, which includes provision for additional deployment of 12 project support staff (9 at newly created IROs and 3 at ROHQ in the Ministry). The EC advised FC Division/NICS I to henceforth submit the proposal financial year wise. The EC also desired that a suitable officer of NICS I should remain present in the future EC meetings, whenever their matter is discussed. The EC recommended for funding the current proposal from the National Authority for the period 01.01.2021 to 31.03.2021 at a cost of Rs 57,99,032/- minus the unspent balance available with NICS I as on 31.12.2020. It addition, it advised FC/NICS I to submit the proposal for 2021-22 by the end of this month.

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Agenda Item No. 16

Study on Impact of Sal Seed Collection on its Regeneration and its Market Dynamics

Decision: The EC considered the study proposal prepared by ICFRE and submitted through CS Division with a total cost of Rs 90.04 lakh to be completed during a period of two years for funding from the National Authority. The EC deferred it as it did not propose to offer novel research on Sal seeds, neither it was directly linked to regeneration of forests.

Agenda Item No. 17

Pilot Project regarding Transitioning from Shifting Cultivation to Settled Land Use in the State of Nagaland

Decision: The Executive Committee considered the proposal of the State Forest Department, Govt. of Nagaland for its implementation in one pilot village in each of 12 districts of the State at an estimated cost of Rs 40.01 crore and a duration of five years for funding from the National Authority. The project was examined by NAEB. The EC accorded in-principle approval to recommend the proposal to the Governing Body with condition that IG, NAEB will examine cost estimates in order to further lower the unit cost and economise total cost, ensure that the land status of the project does not violate the existing laws and revise the proposal for its implementation in only six pilot villages. The EC recommended the revised proposal for the approval of the Governing Body of the National Authority. Monitoring the progress and implementation of the project will be the responsibility of NAEB.

Agenda Item No. 18

Transfer of monies to the National Fund and State Funds from Compensatory Afforestation Deposits (CAD) in the public Account of India under "Major Head 8336-Civil Deposits" as per the CAF Act, 2016 and CAF (Accounting Procedure) Rule 2018-regarding.

Decision: The EC took note of the proposal to transfer Rs 3072.71 crore to the twenty-one State Compensatory Afforestation Funds.

Agenda Item No. 19

Fixing applicable rate of interest for the State Compensatory Afforestation Fund (State Fund) for the year 2019-20 and 2020-21

Decision: The EC perused the Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Expenditure OM No. 1(9)-B(AC)/2017 dated 24.11.2020 requesting MoEF&CC to notify the applicable interest rate for State Compensatory Afforestation Fund based on the rate of interest applicable for the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund. In an earlier communication, while fixing the annual rate of interest for the year 2018-19 for the National Fund as well as the respective State Funds, the Department of Expenditure suggested an amendment in CAF Act in order to provide that each State Government would prescribe the annual rate of interest on the balances available under respective State. Hence, seeking legal opinion on this issue was also discussed. Finally, the EC recommended the proposal to fix the proposed applicable rate of interest for the State Fund for the year 2019-20 and 2020-21 at 5.5% and 3.4% respectively, which are the applicable rates of interest for the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund for the approval of HMEFCC.

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Agenda Item No. 20

Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for Rejuvenation of Damodar and Subarnarekha Rivers through Forestry Interventions.

Decision: The EC considered the proposal of ICFRE at a total cost of Rs 1.17 crore and 18 months' duration for funding from the National Authority. The project was examined by NAEB. The EC recommended it for the approval of the Governing Body of the National Authority. Monitoring the progress and implementation of the project will be the responsibility of NAEB.

Agenda Item No. 21

Satellite Survey of Encroachment position of Rejected claims as per Order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petitions (civil) No(s) 109/2008 Wildlife First & Others Vs Ministry of Forest and Environment & others.

Decision: The EC considered the proposal of FSI at a total cost of Rs 48.00 crore and covering six years' duration for funding from the National Authority. This was discussed at Agenda Item No. 16 (b) of 8th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority for funding under Section 5(b)(iii) of the CAF Act, 2016 and as was decided therein, a revised proposal has been submitted by the FP Division. The EC "in-principle" agreed to the proposal and recommended it for the approval of the Governing Body of the National Authority. Monitoring the progress and implementation of the project will be the responsibility of FP Division.

Agenda Item No. 22

No cost extension of Scheme "Execution of Readiness Activities for Implementation of REDD+ in India" submitted by ICFRE

Decision: The scheme was approved in the first meeting of the Governing Body of the National Authority for the duration of 09 months with the budget of Rs. 120.04 lakh. First instalment of Rs. 72 Lakh was also released. However, due to COVID-19, the implementation of the programme got delayed and the ICFRE has sought a 'no cost extension' of the scheme till 31.12.2021, which has been recommended by the RT Division. The EC considered the proposal and recommended it.

Agenda Item No. 23

No cost extension of Scheme "National Program for Conservation and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (FGRs): Pilot Project on Creation of Centre of Excellence on Forest Genetic Resources"

Decision: The ongoing scheme approved by the National CAMPA Advisory Council (NCAC) with a total financial outlay of Rs. 8.61 crores for a period of 5 years (2016 to 2020-2021) was approved in the first meeting of the Governing Body of the National Authority. Till date, a sum of Rs. 7.74 crore has been released (Rs. 6.646 crore by Ad-hoc CAMPA + 1.095 crore by National Authority). The balance amount of Rs. 86.35 lakh is yet to be released. Due to COVID-19, the implementation of the programme got delayed and the ICFRE has sought a 'no cost extension' of the scheme till 31.03.2022. The EC considered the proposal and recommended it.

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Agenda Item No. 24

Monitoring the progress of implementation of CAMPA activities through E-Greenwatch Portal

Decision: The ongoing work on (i) improving the working of the existing e-Green Watch Portal and uploading of CAMPA afforestation/other work polygons and photographs, (ii) strengthening of the e-Greenwatch portal by shifting from Google Earth based imagery system to High Resolution Satellite Imageries procured annually, and (iii) establishment of FSI Cell in each State/UT was recalled. The EC noted that the quantity and quality of the polygons of CAMPA activities uploaded on e-Greenwatch portal by States are not satisfactory. The EC felt a need of further capacity building of the State officers on how to use e-Greenwatch. DG, FSI informed that a training programme for the officers of States will be started from 15.01.2021. On the basis of the feedback received from the States, the EC advised DG, FSI to take prompt action in getting the technical glitches of the portal removed, in establishment of FSI Desk in all States, establishment of a Help Desk in NIC, Bhopal and hand-holding of the States/UT in a prompt manner. The EC also emphasised the need to sufficiently increase the storage space of the portal for smooth uploading of time-series photographs of all plantations and inspection reports. DGF&SS requested DG, FSI to develop standard protocols in respect of loading of the photographs and inspection notes. He also informed that a complete rehaul of the PARIVESH portal is underway where all clearances will be merged into one. So an organic link between PARIVESH and the New e-Greenwatch should be established in an efficient manner, so there would be no need to separately load Compensatory Afforestation polygon on the e-Green Watch portal once again as the same will be automatically taken from PARIVESH.

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