


**F. No. NA-5/1/2020-NA**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(National Authority)**  
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Indira ParyavaranBhawan  
JorBagh Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi-110003  
**Dated 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021**

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

The undersigned is directed to enclose a copy of the minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021, at 1100 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.

**Encl. As above.**

  
**Ajeeta Longjam**  
**Assistant Inspector General of Forests**

**Distribution:**

- a. Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India- Chairperson;
- b. Special Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India – Member;
- c. Additional Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India – Member;
- d. Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India – Member;
- e. Mission Director, National Mission for Green India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India – Member;
- f. Head of all Regional Offices of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India – Member;
- g. Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India – Member;
- h. Chief Executive Officer of National Authority – Member Secretary;

**Copy to:**

1. Chief Secretary, All States/ UTs
2. Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Department of Forest, All States/ UTs.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), All States/ UTs
4. CEO, State Authority, All State/ UTs
5. Director General, FSI, Dehradun & Member Secretary, Monitoring Group.

**Copy also to:**

1. IGF(NAEB)/ IGF(SU)/ IGF (FPD)/ IGF(WL)/ IGF(NTCA)/IG(ROHQ)

## Minutes of Meeting

The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority of CAMPA was held on 26th March 2021 at 11.00 AM under the chairmanship of Director General of Forests and Special Secretary and Chairman Executive Committee (EC), through video conferencing

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

Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, MoEFCC and Chairman, Executive Committee asked Assistant Inspector General Forest, National Authority (NA) to initiate the proceedings. AIG, NA welcomed all the participants and briefly explained the agenda. She also informed that so far only 12 APOs for 2021-22 have been received from the State Authorities. Most of these APOs have been received in the National Authority recently in the month of March 2021 and hence detailed examination of all components of the APOs couldn't become possible. She also informed that due to late submission of APOs, and that too from a limited number of States, the first meeting of the EC of the NA could be organised today only and not before.

2. Before taking up the agenda items, the EC deliberated on common issues related to the utilisation of CAMPA funds, most notably priority of activities for which fund has to be utilised, monitoring of activities, avoiding overlap of works and funds, involvement of gram sabha etc. The EC reiterated the following, and directed that these be scrupulously followed by the States. It also desired that the EC and the Steering Committees of the State Authorities should put in place sound mechanism to ensure the compliance of these decisions/ provisions:

- i. Utilization of State Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) shall be done in such a manner that at least 80 per cent is used for afforestation/ forest development and wildlife habitat improvement and maximum 20 per cent be used for infrastructure/capacity building related items. The Hon'ble Minister, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India & Chairman of the National Authority has reiterated this several time including during the meeting of State Forest Ministers. Such ratio of utilization is also in conformity with the spirit and the preamble of the CAF Act 2016.
- ii. KML files of afforestation and other major works and their periodic photos (before start of the work and after the completion of the work on an annual basis) shall be uploaded on E-Green Watch portal.
- iii. Monitoring and evaluation of the works undertaken shall be the highest priority for the State Authorities, and the EC and the Steering Committee of all the State Authorities shall take adequate measures in this regard.

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- iv. The monitoring and evaluation report of the works done upto the year 2019-20 be ready by September, 2021, and similarly report on activities taken up in 2021-22 must be made available in time by September 2022.
- v. It is to be noted that from now on, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party (independent) Monitoring Report of major works undertaken in the previous year shall be submitted along with other necessary documents for consideration of APO by the EC of NA.
- vi. A statement that the Annual Report and the Audit Report together with a memorandum of action taken on recommendations contained therein has been laid in each house of the State legislature as per requirements of section-29 of the CAF Act 2016, shall be invariably submitted with the proposal for approval of the APO by the EC of NA.
- vii. Prior to implementation of approved APOs the EC of the State Authority shall ensure that a certificate is available with them to the effect that the proposed activities are being taken up after due consultation with Gram Sabha and are as per provisions of FRA 2006; activities proposed in forest areas are in consonance with approved working plan; and activities proposed in protected areas (PAs) are in consonance with approved management plan.
- viii. The State EC will also ensure that there is no overlapping of activities / funding with other schemes and may provide a certificate to that effect.
- ix. Local species, specially fruit and fodder species, has to be given preference in afforestation/ regeneration to be carried out; monoculture should not be undertaken, and planting of exotic species shall be avoided.
- x. Compensating the loss of ecological services due to forest diversion for non-forestry purposes is the main objective of Compensatory Afforestation Fund. Regeneration and development of forests should, therefore, be given priority. Also, priority should be accorded to labour intensive activities for regeneration and development of forests.
- xi. State Forest Fire Action Plan proposed in the Supplementary APOs/APOs shall be a 'standalone' activity.
- xii. The approved activities shall be carried out as per Rule 4 of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Rules, 2018 i.e. as per the provisions of the State Financial Rules or any such rules applicable from time to time in the State.
- xiii. The Executive Committee of the State shall also ensure that proposed activities have adequate forward and backward linkages and are being taken up as per prevailing approved minimum wage rate, schedule of rates, model estimates etc. In future, the APOs that are sent to the National Authority for approval must be accompanied with rationale of activities proposed, information on approved minimum wage rate, schedule of rates, model estimates etc.
- xiv. There should not be any reduction in allocation for forestry sector in the regular State Budget due to flow of CAMPA funds to the states. In addition, the State Government shall also make timely and adequate budget provision as per approved APO and release money so that approved activities could be implemented in time.

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- xv. Works related to Eco-tourism and Eco-development are permissible only as per approved site-specific schemes.
- xvi. Soil and moisture conservation work shall be carried out in an integrated manner under watershed approach from “ridge to valley” only in degraded forests. This shall focus on assisted natural regeneration and supplemented by artificial seeding with quantifiable monitoring parameters. Construction of Dams, Stop Dam and ponds and their deepening are to be taken up only if they are a part of an integrated soil and moisture conservation plan of the catchment area. Since this component (SWC for regeneration of forests) is a very large work, the efficacy of the design and the activities shall be concurrently monitored by a reputed independent agency. Actions will be, accordingly, taken during the lifetime of each project. The overall impact on improved forest regeneration shall be shared with NAEB (MoEF&CC) on an annual basis.
- xvii. The proposed activities in the APO need to be rearranged at some places as per sub- rules of rule 5 and 6 of CAF Rules, 2018, wherever found inappropriate. The State Authority shall make necessary changes in the APO accordingly with the permission of the State Executive Authority.
- xviii. Purchase of vehicles shall be avoided. Instead, hiring of vehicles shall be the first option. Repair/ maintenance of vehicles shall be limited to the vehicles purchased from the CAMPA funds previously.
- xix. ‘Measurable output’ of all physical activities and targets of each permissible activity along with period required for achieving the measurable output shall be monitored by the State Executive Committee and State Steering Committee.
- xx. The validity of APO (2021-22) shall expire on 31.03.2022. Further continuation of the incomplete activities shall be permissible only if they are included in the APO (2022-23) and are approved.
- xxi. The final approval of APO (2021-22) shall be considered only after the State Government/UT Administration submits a compliance report as per the guidelines regarding utilization of unspent balance of the Ad-hoc CAMPA issued vide letter no. NA-15/1/2020-NA dated 15.07.2020 of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

3. The EC decided that all the APOs as and when received from the State Authorities must be presented in next Executive Committee meeting within the following fifteen days. The DGF advised all the State Authorities to submit their APOs immediately and also directed CEO to request Chief Secretaries for expeditious action in this regard.

4. The EC directed that three EC meetings be convened before the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 for the consideration and approval of APOs for 2021-22. The States Authorities were advised to submit their APOs within the stipulated time (i.e. latest by 30.4.2021), otherwise timely approval of

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APO shall not be possible. The request being made to State Chief Secretaries should highlight this time schedule.

5. The DG, Forest Survey of India (FSI) and Member Secretary of the Monitoring Group briefed the EC on the Monitoring Protocol for CAMPA plantations through e-Green Watch portal and the steps being taken to strengthen the same. The EC observed that this be given highest priority, so that the revamped application that is to be used for all kinds of afforestation/ plantations (not just CAMPA work) by all departments (not just Forest Dept.) of State/ Central Ministries could be ready for use at the earliest in the next financial year. A need for transferring and converging data of forest/ wildlife clearances from PARIVESH to e-Green Watch Portal was also expressed.

6. The EC requested the DG, Forest Survey of India (FSI) and Member Secretary of the Monitoring Group that it should meet more frequently, preferably fortnightly, and undertake the M&E work on a priority basis. It requested the DG, FSI to present the M&E report to the EC in its meeting in mid-May 2021.

7. The EC took a serious note of the readiness of both personnel & equipment for fire-fighting, control & protection measures in view of the severity of the fire season in different parts of the country this year, and sought clarification from the States on ensuring that there is no overlap between activities undertaken with funding under different schemes (e.g. a State Plan scheme, CAMPA, and the CSS-Forest Fire scheme), and that the activities under CAMPA must be stand-alone in nature on a long-term basis.

8. Thereafter, with the permission of the chair, the Executive Committee took up the agenda items for discussion.

#### **Agenda Item No.1**

##### **8.1 Confirmation of Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority:**

The Executive Committee confirmed the minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Executive Committee.

#### **Agenda Item No.2**

##### **8.2 Confirmation of Action Taken Report of 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority.**

The Action Taken Report on the decisions of 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority were perused and noted.

#### **Agenda Item No. 3 to 14**

##### **8.3 Approval of Annual Plans of Operations 2021-2022**

Most of the APOs were received recently and it was not possible to consult all the states in respect of all activities proposed in APOs. It was, therefore, agreed to grant immediate approval for carrying out essential plantation and other activities to all the states who submit their Annual Plans of Operations (APOs) with the approval of respective Steering Committees so that time bound activities could be undertaken/completed. The states that have submitted such APOs are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Tripura and West Bengal

The following activities have been approved in the first instance:

### **8.3.1 Site-specific activities (Condition Compliance)-**

All activities as per Part-II of the APO prepared in compliance of Rule 39 that is: "Compensatory Afforestation (CA), additional CA, penal CA, Catchment area treatment plan and any other site specific scheme submitted by the state along with approved proposals for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 referred to in clause (a) of section 6 of the CAF Act.

### **8.3.2 Activities as per Rule 5 of CAF Rules, 2018-**

- a. All activities related to assisted natural regeneration/ artificial regeneration/ silvicultural operations/ soil and moisture conservation works, improvement of availability of food, water and shelter for wildlife habitat as per management plan etc.
- b. Nursery works for the above activities
- c. Forest fire prevention and control operations (under Rule 5 (2) (f))
- d. Maintenance of modern nurseries and other planting stock facilities for production of quality planting materials on a perpetual basis.
- e. Independent (third party) monitoring/ evaluation of various works undertaken from State Fund
- f. Production and distribution of quality planting material through certified nurseries at subsidized price for promoting of tress outside forest on Government lands

### **8.3.3 Activities as per Clause (b) of Rule 6 of CAF Rules, 2018-**

- a. For disbursement of salary and allowances of members and staffs, both regular and contractual [Rule 6(a)(iv) and 6(a)(v)], management of office establishment, office equipment, hiring of vehicles for State Authority [Rule 6(b)(i) and 6(b)(iii)].

### **8.3.4. The EC also decided that:**

- a. The above approval for essential work only will be extended to 12 States whose APOs are received after approval of respective State Steering Committees to facilitate timely field work.

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- b. Those States, who have not submitted their APOs for the year 2021-22 to National Authority so far, shall submit the same urgently and latest by 30.4.2021 with the approval of State Steering Committee.
- c. Monitoring of the work undertaken shall be the highest priority for the State Authority, and the directions reiterated in para 2 above of these minutes shall be followed scrupulously.

The National Authority shall issue individual sanctions/ approvals regarding APOs on the basis of decision taken at Para 2 and 8.3 above.

**Agenda Item No. 15**

**8.4 Information pertaining to unspent balance, third-party monitoring and evaluation, monthly progress report and Annual Report (Status) and Audit.**

This issue was already deliberated by the Executive Committee above and the states were advised to submit all the details immediately.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

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*07/04/2021*