

NA-5/1/2020-NA
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(National Authority)

Hall No. 1, 4th Floor,
Block No. 3, CGO Complex
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Dated the 8th November, 2021

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

The undersigned is directed to enclose a copy of the minutes of the 15th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority held on 20th October, 2021, at 1100 hrs through videoconferencing 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.


(Siam Khan Muan Guite)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests, NA


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 Integrated Regional Offices (IRO) 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.
6. IGF(NAEB)/ IGF(SU)/ IGF (FPD)/ IGF(WL)/ IGF(NTCA)/IG(ROHQ)


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Minutes of Meeting

The 15th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority

Venue: Through Video conferencing

Date: 20.10.2021

Time: 11:00AM

The 15th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority was held on 20th October, 2021 at 11.30 AM under the chair of Director General of Forests and Special Secretary and Chairman, Executive Committee of the National Authority (EC), through video conferencing. The list of members who attended the meeting are enclosed at Annexure-I. The Chairman, EC welcomed the members present in the meeting. Thereafter, with his permission agenda items were taken up for discussion.

Agenda Item No. 1

Confirmation of Minutes of 14th meeting of the EC:

The minutes of 14th Meeting of EC were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 2

Confirmation of Action Taken Report on 14th meeting of the EC:

The action take report on the decisions of 14th Meeting of EC were perused and noted. EC expressed its satisfaction over issue of sanction orders to States/UTs. However, the SS&FA expressed serious concern on the pending reconciliation work of State and National CAMPA funds. He noted that the last reconciliation was carried out in 2019 after which no reconciliation was taken place till date adding that reconciliation of account is not a complicated process. He desired that the timeline be prepared on priority for finishing the procedure so that embezzlement or any fraud or diversion of fund or untoward expenditure do not take place. The SS&FA further desired that transfer of money to public account is taken up on a daily basis to avoid pendency. Regarding audit of CAMPA funds, the SS&FA sought a status update on the outcome of audit carried out for CAMPA funds in the last 5 years. He further desired that the same auditor should not be retained after 3 years.

As regards issues flagged by the EC in the meeting, namely: convening meeting of the Governing Body of the National Authority (GB), reconciliation of compensatory afforestation fund (CAF) deposited in State specific CAMPA accounts, confirmation of amount deposited by User Agencies, Audit of CAMPA and payment mechanism following status report was furnished:

- i. **Meeting of GB:** As per direction of the Chairman, GB and HMEF&CC, before convening the meeting of the GB, process has been initiated to complete selection of non-official members to the Governing Body, the Executive Committee and the Monitoring Group of the National Authority. Accordingly, applications received from candidates are being compiled and their scrutiny will be completed within two weeks.
- ii. **Reconciliation of CAF deposited in State specific CAMPA accounts:** So far proposal-wise and component-wise information regarding CAF deposited between


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09.02.2019 to 31.03.2020 has been received from 22 States/UTs and the reconciliation has been completed in respect of 17 of them. The distribution of state share of CAF to concerned State Fund of this period would be completed within a period of three months. Prior to this, CAF deposited until 08.02.2019 had already been reconciled and funds amounting to Rs 48,606 crore has been transferred to 32 State/UTs who have notified their respective State Fund and reconciled their CAF proposal-wise and component-wise.

- iii. **Confirmation of amount deposited by User Agencies:** It is a continuous process and depends on the correctness of information submitted by the Nodal Officers, FCA of the States/UTs. So far, requests received in this connection from States/UTs upto September, 2021 have been replied.
- iv. **Audit of CAMPA funds:** M/s AVA & Associates, a firm on the panel maintained by C&AG, have been assigned the task of the statutory audit of the accounts of the State CAMPAs for the year 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 at a consolidated fees @ Rs 50,000/- +GST. The task includes certification of state-wise and year-wise balances. The auditors have informed that they have completed the audits upto 2017-18 but for pending clarification on certain issues from the Financial Advisor, National Authority, they are unable to submit them. In addition, they have not received the documents related to year 2018-19 from the Financial Advisor. Every attempt will be made to complete the audits within a period of three months.
- v. **Payment mechanism:** Reminders have been issued to States/UTs seeking their acceptance regarding the proposed payment mechanism linking e-Kuber and PARIVESH. Acceptance has been received from Assam, Delhi, Telangana, MP, Punjab and Sikkim only. As per this mechanism, for depositing state share each State/UT is required to open a separate bank account in RBI. As this will require concurrence of the respective Finance Departments, the acceptance is expected by next month. Thereafter, linking of the portals will take further three months.
- vi. **Transfer of CAF deposited in the State specific bank accounts:** EC desired that the transfer of CAF from Union Bank of India to the public accounts of India be done on every next working day instead of present system of monthly transfer.

Agenda Item No. 3

Additional APO for the year 2021-22 of Himachal Pradesh State CAMPA

Decision: As the details regarding the additional APO was furnished by the State CAMPA after the issue of the agenda notes, in-principal approval for the same was granted subject to the condition that the sanction letter would be issued after thorough scrutiny of the details.

Agenda Item No. 4

Additional APO for Wildlife Management under CAMPA for the year 2021-22 of Rajasthan State CAMPA

Decision: The approval of the additional APO consisting of spill-over/remaining works of the approved APO of the last Financial Year was granted.


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Agenda Item No. 5:

Proposal submitted by Wildlife Division for “The establishment of National Centre for Wildlife Forensics (NCWF) at WII.”

Decision: The proposal was recommended for the approval of the GB under the provisions of section 5(b) (iii) of the CAF Act 2016.

Agenda Item No. 6:

Project Proposal submitted by Project Elephant Division on “Assessment of Existing and Modelling of Potential Elephant Movement Corridors for Conservation Planning and Management in West Bengal”.

Decision: The Programme Division (Project Elephant) was directed to first explore allotment of additional budget at the time of RE from funds surrendered under the CSS by other divisions of the Ministry or under State CAMPA funds.

Agenda Item No. 7:

Proposal of WII submitted by Wildlife Division for “the Nationwide Elephant Population Estimation (Census) 2022”.

Decision: The proposal was recommended for the approval of the GB under the provisions of section 5(b) (iii) of the CAF Act 2016 subject to condition that the Programme Division (Project Elephant) would first explore allotment of additional budget at the time of RE from funds surrendered under the CSS by other divisions of the Ministry, after which the proposal will be considered for funding under National CAMPA.

Agenda Item No. 8:

Project submitted by Wetlands Division on “Development of Ex-Situ conservation of endemic tree species and plantation of different taxa including forestry species in eight forest types, 8 phyto-geographic regions and 21 thematic sections at Botanic Garden of Indian Republic (BGIR), MoEF&CC, NOIDA”.

Decision: The proposal in its current form was withdrawn by the Programme Division.

Agenda Item No. 9:

“Land Degradation Project” submitted by Desertification Cell for setting up of Centre of Excellence at ICFRE, Dehradun

Decision: The proposal was recommended for the approval of the GB under the provisions of section 5(b) (iii) of the CAF Act 2016 subject to condition that the Programme Division

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would also explore funding for Capacity Building etc. from other sources including the States.

Agenda Item No. 10:

Project proposal submitted by RT Division on “Management of *Lantana camera* through utilization for improving livelihood of people in forest fringe villages of India.”

Decision: As most of the States/UTs are including proposals for management of weeds including lantana in their State APOs, it was decided to re-examine the proposal first by taking into account activities already sanctioned in the APOs of the States/UTs. The proposal was deferred.

Agenda Item No. 11 (A):

Project submitted by Goa State Authority on “Study of short and long-term impact of Climate Change on Biodiversity of Protected area in Goa by setting up of Automatic Weather Stations”.

Decision: The proposal was recommended for the approval of the GB under the provisions of section 5(b) (iii) of the CAF Act 2016 subject to condition that for ensuring synergy, it would be vetted by the Climate Change Division.

Agenda Item No. 11 (B):

Proposal submitted by Assam State CAMPA for facilitating scientific, technological and other assistance under wildlife wing

Decision: The proposal was deferred as it lacks details.

Agenda Item No. 12:

Deployment of three additional post at ROHQ under the NICSI project' Yearly Maintenance, Enhancement and Up-Gradation of Forest Clearance module of PARIVESH.

Decision: The proposal was recommended for the approval of the GB under the provisions of section 5(b) (iii) of the CAF Act 2016.

Agenda Item No. 13:

Update on progress of Projects undertaken under National Fund by various Institutes

Decision: Due to paucity of time, the Institutes/Organisations receiving assistance from the


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National Authority were asked to submit their PPTs/presentation related to their progress report and to confirm that the respective projects will be completed within the stipulated time.

Agenda Item No. 15:

Any other matter with the permission of the chair

1. **Five Year Planning of National Fund:** A year-wise Financial Planning for next five years shall be worked out for the purpose of Financial Planning of the National Authority.
2. DG, ICFRE and Director, IIFM shall start immediately the process of monitoring Compensatory Afforestation works in respect of States/UTs assigned to them as decided in the 14th EC meeting. DG, FSI and Director, WII would also be involved in efficacy studies related to monitoring and evaluation of activities taken up under CAMPA funds.
3. Serious note was taken in respect of States/UTs, which have not yet submitted information on plantations carried out under CA, Penal CA, NPV etc. and the M&E Reports. Such States/UTs were informed that this might result in holding of their sanction letters until compliances are submitted.
4. It was noted that EC meetings are generally held quarterly and there is a time-lag on decisions on deferred items of APOs leading to avoidable delays. The EC of NA, therefore, authorized the CEO, NA for sanctioning remaining items of APOs after proper scrutiny of the activities in the light of clarifications/ justifications/ details furnished by respective State Authorities as per the provisions under CAF Act & Rules and the various guidelines issued by EC from time to time to ensure completion of time-bound forestry and wildlife activities.

Meeting ended with thanks to the chair.


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