



AGENDA NOTES

Seventh Meeting of Governing Body of National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority (National Authority CAMPA)

on

10th July 2026

**Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

AGENDA ITEMS FOR 7TH MEETING OF GOVERNING BODY OF NATIONAL AUTHORITY

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF 6th MEETING OF GOVERNING BODY HELD ON 24.09.2025

The minutes of meeting of the 6th meeting held on 24.09.2025 of the Governing Body of National Authority circulated vide OM no. F. No. NA-5/10/2022-NA dated 14.10.2025 are placed at **Annexure-I** before the Governing Body for confirmation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: ACTION TAKEN NOTE (ATN) ON THE DECISION TAKEN IN THE 6th MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY:

S. No.	Actionable points	Status
1.	Status of reconciliation of project wise Compensatory Afforestation since 1980 carried out against each forest land diversion proposal The Governing Body noted the status of CA reconciliation since 1980 vetted by IROs.	The letter to the concerned States/ UTs to immediately take up and complete the prescribed compensatory afforestation and other site-specific activities in compliance of the approvals by the Central Government for non-forestry use of forest land to compensate the loss of forest and ecosystem services has been initiated vide official letter no. NA-1/6/2023-NA dated 29.10.2025 (Annexure II)
2.	Approval of provisional Annual Accounts of National Authority for the FY 2024-25 for approval of Governing Body The Governing Body noted the provisional accounts of National CAMPA for 2024-25 and directed to place the Accounts after the receipt of the audit certificate in reference to C&AG compliances.	C&AG Compliance Audit has been completed and certified for FY 2024-25 and placed at Agenda No. 4 for appraisal of Governing Body.
3.	Update on the Mission MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitat and Tangible Incomes) The CEO, National CAMPA informed that an amount of Rs. 100 crore has been approved under MISHTI Programme. In last two years an amount of Rs. 64.42 crore has been released for implementation of MISHTI scheme in six (06) States/UTs (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Odisha, Puducherry and West Bengal). The GB noted the progress of MISHTI scheme.	National Authority organized a National level workshop in Andhra Pradesh from 08.01.2026 to 09.01.2026 to promote restoration, conservation and management of mangrove across the country under MISHTI, a CAMPA funded scheme. So far, National Authority has released an amount of Rs. 88.40 crore for plantation & restoration of Mangroves to six (06) States/UTs under this scheme.
4.	Update on Nagar Van: The CEO, National CAMPA informed that total 547 Nagar Vans & Vatikas have been approved in all States/UTs and an amount of Rs. 444.42 crore has been released till date. CEO, CAMPA also informed that the 53 of new Nagar Vans have been approved under Nagar Van Yojana in the current financial year 2025-26. The GB noted the progress of Nagar Van Yojana.	Under the Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), which envisages the development of 1000 Nagar Vans/Vatikas in the urban areas of our country. This scheme has been funded by the National CAMPA fund for 5 years starting from FY 2020-21 to 2024-25. Later on this scheme was extended for two more years i.e. 2025-26 to 2026-27. So far, the National Authority has released an amount of Rs. 571.50 crore for development of 652 Nagar Vans/Vatikas till date.

S. No.	Actionable points	Status
5.	CAMPA Support to Green Credit Scheme CAMPA support for Green Credit Scheme (HSM Division & ICFRE) which promote activities for increasing the green cover across the country through tree plantation and related activities.	To increase green cover, enhance carbon sequestration, restore degraded land and reduce carbon foot prints through the adoption of environment friendly technologies and practices. So far, the National Authority has released an amount of Rs. 7.28 crore to ICFRE till date.
6.	Legal representation of National Authority Constitution of independent monitoring Committee for legal representation of National Authority through regular review of the progress of CAMPA activities.	A letter along with reminder letter no. NA-5/10/2022 dated 25.11.2025 and 19.01.2026 respectively, have been issued to Dr. S.S. Garbyal, Expert Member, Governing Body and PCCF& HoFF Gujarat to compile comprehensive details of all litigation, petitions and legal matters pertaining to forest diversion and CAMPA (Annexure IIIa & IIIb).
7.	Development of Nagar Vans Development of Nagar Vans by involving local communities through education institutions and universities.	A letter along with reminder letter no. NA-5/10/2022-NA dated 25.11.2025 and 19.01.2026 respectively, have been issued informing Mr. Girish Kuber Expert Member, Governing Body for development of Nagar Vans in Universities Campus (Annexure IVa & IVb).
8.	Monitoring of CAMPA supported Schemes Monitoring of MISHTI, Nagar Vans and Green Credit Programme in States/UTs	A letter along with reminder letter no. NA-5/10/2022-NA dated 25.11.2025 and 19.01.2026 respectively, have been issued to PCCF & HoFF all States/UTs for monitoring of plantations carried out under various schemes, namely MISHTI, Nagar Vans and Green Credit Programme on the basis of aerial photographs and high-resolution satellite imagery after the period of five years from the date of implementation (Annexure Va & Vb).
9.	Restoration initiative Restoration and conservation of native flora in hot and cold desert regions across the country.	A letter along with reminder letter no. NA-5/10/2022-NA dated 25.11.2025 and 19.01.2026 respectively, have been issued to PCCF& HoFF, all States/UTs to strengthen restoration efforts in both hot and cold desert regions, with particular focus on the use of native flora, including medicinal and aromatic plants, shrubs and herbs (Annexure VIa & VIb).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: FOR INFORMATION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

A. Minutes of Meetings of Executive Committee: Four (04) meetings of the Executive Committee of National Authority were organised after the 6th meeting of Governing Body. The EC approved the spill-over/ additional/ deferred CAMPA activities for the State/UT of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka Ladakh, Mizoram, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand State in its 36th meeting. The APO of Bihar and additional APO of Odisha for financial year 2025-26 were approved by Executive Committee in its 37th meeting. Various schemes/projects from National Fund were recommended as received from the Programme Divisions of the Ministry for implementation by Institutions/Agencies for approval of the Governing Body.

1. Minutes of 36th meeting of Executive Committee is placed at **Annexure VII(a)**
2. Minutes of 37th meeting of Executive Committee is placed at **Annexure VII(b)**
3. Minutes of 38th meeting of Executive Committee is placed at **Annexure VII(c)**
4. Minutes of 39th meeting of Executive Committee is placed at **Annexure VII(d)**

B. Minutes of various Review Meeting at the level of National Authority CAMPA: Minutes of meeting to review the progress of CAMPA works in States/UTs and ongoing schemes/projects supported from National Authority CAMPA

1. Minutes of meeting to review the progress of Compensatory Afforestation and other CAMPA activities held on 04.12.2025 is placed at **Annexure VIII(a)**.
2. Minutes of meeting to review the progress of Nagar Van Yojana & Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Income (MISHTI) held on 22.01.2026 is placed at **Annexure VIII(b)**.
3. Minutes of meeting to review the progress of ongoing schemes implemented by NTCA, NAEB/GIM, CZA, PARIVESH-NICSI, ROHQ, BNHS and Karnataka Forest Department held on 23.01.2026 is placed at **Annexure VIII(c)**.
4. Minutes of meeting to review the progress of ongoing schemes implemented by FRI, FSI, ICFRE, IIFM and WII held on 29.01.2026 and 30.01.2026 is placed at **Annexure VIII(d)**.

C. Status of CAMPA Funds Received, Transferred and Utilized

1. CAMPA funds received and transferred during 2025-26 (State wise Statement)

An amount of **Rs. 8,295.72 crore** of compensatory levies were deposited with the National Authority by User Agencies in compliance of approvals granted under the Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980 during the financial year 2025-26. Funds received from Ad-hoc CAMPA **Rs. 54,685.00 crore** accumulated upto the period 31.03.2018 and funds received from 01.04.2018 to 31.03.2026 were **Rs. 51,513.90 crore**. Thus, total receipts of **Rs. 1,06,198.90 crore** till 31.03.2026 were credited to the Public Account. An amount of **Rs. 5,744.53 crore** were transferred during the Financial Year 2025-26 and total fund transferred to States/UTs from 2018-19 to 2025- 2026 till date is **Rs. 84,556.43 crore**. The details of fund receipt and fund transferred is placed at **Annexure IX**.

2. APO of 32 States/UTs Authorities approved for the year 2025-26

The State/UT Authorities submitted their Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) for carrying out of CAMPA activities to the National Authority for approval. The APOs are prepared by Executive Committee of State/UT CAMPA which are finalised and recommended by State Steering Committee. National Authority approved APO of 32 States/UTs for an amount of **Rs. 8945.60 crore** during the financial year 2025-26 (**Annexure X**).

D. Status of CA activities under CAMPA

1. Physical & financial targets approved by National Authority CAMPA for Compensatory Afforestation for the FY 2025-26

National Authority has given highest priority for completion of committed Compensatory Afforestation and pursuing with States/UTs CAMPA to complete all pending CA. The National Authority has approved an amount of **Rs. 597.37 crore** for the proposed physical target of **33825.78 ha** during the financial year 2025-26 for creation of new plantation under Compensatory Afforestation. (**Annexure XI**).

2. Status of Reconciliation of Compensatory Afforestation from 1980 to 2025-26

Compensatory Afforestation over an area of **12,22,205.09 hectares (95.59%)** (as on 31-01-2026) has been taken up against the mandated target of **12,78,529.05 hectare** (as on 31-03-2025) under CAMPA. Project wise reconciliation forest diversion and status of Compensatory Afforestation data since 1980 have been furnished by all the States/UTs to National Authority **except the Bihar**.

- a) Of these States/ UTs, project -wise vetted reconciled data of CA from the Regional Office has been received from eleven (11) States/UTs namely, **Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh**.
- b) While Seventeen (17) States/UTs namely, **Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Ladakh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and West Bengal** are in process of getting the CA data vetted by the concerned Regional Offices.
- c) However, the information received for three States/UTs namely **Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Kerala & Tamil Nadu** from their concerned IROs is incomplete. (**Annexure XII**).

NOTE: This status remains static for more than two years. Matter has been highlighted in various EC meetings and the National Authority has made numerous correspondences in this regard with the concern division.

E. Status of NPV activities under CAMPA for FY 2025-26

1. Physical & financial target approved by National Authority for Assisted Natural Regeneration

The National Authority approved an amount of **Rs. 247.44 crore** for carrying out **38989.56 ha Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) activities** during financial year 2025-26 (**Annexure XIII**).

2. Physical & financial target approved by National Authority for Artificial Regeneration

The National Authority approved an amount of **Rs. 334.99 crore** for carrying out **106529.96 ha Artificial Regeneration (AR) activities** during financial year 2025-26 (**Annexure XIV**).

3. Physical & financial target approved by National Authority for Improvement of Wildlife habitat

The National Authority has approved an amount of **Rs. 337.20 crore** to States/UTs for improvement of **Wildlife habitat** for the financial year 2025-26 (**Annexure XV**).

4. Physical & financial target activities undertaken in fire prevention & control

National Authority has approved an amount of **Rs. 242.29 crore** for **Fire prevention and control** in Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) of various States/UTs for the year 2025-26 (**Annexure XVI**).

5. Physical & financial target approved by National Authority Soil Moisture Conservation Works

National Authority has approved an amount of **Rs. 374.01 crore** for **Soil Moisture Conservation activities** in forest areas under NPV component of various States/UTs for the year 2025-26 (**Annexure XVII**).

6. Physical & financial target approved by National Authority Model Nurseries by State Forest Departments

The National Authority has approved an amount of **Rs. 146.67 crore** for creation of **Model Nurseries** for the State Forest Department of various States/UTs during the financial year 2025-26 (**Annexure XVIII**).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: CERTIFICATION AUDIT OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS OF NATIONAL AUTHORITY CAMPA CONDUCTED BY C&AG OF INDIA- Separate Audit Report (SAR) of Annual Account for the year 2024-25 for apprising

Section of 22 of CAF Act, 2016 stipulates that

the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (National Authority) shall maintain annual statement of accounts in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) of India. The accounts of the National Authority shall be audited annually by C&AG of India. The accounts of the National Authority as certified by the C&AG of India shall be presented to both Houses of Parliament.

During the month of July-August 2025, C&AG have audited the Financial Statements of National Authority which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March, 2025 and the Income & Expenditure Account/Receipts & Payment Account for the year then ended, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of Significant Accounting Policies under Section 19(2) of the Comptroller & Auditor General's (Duties, Powers & Conditions of Service) Act, 1971.

The final Certification Report i.e. Separate Audit Report (SAR) for the period 2024-25 has been issued by Office of the Director General of Audit (Central Expenditure), Environment and Scientific Department, New Delhi vide letter No. CAG(EC)/EA/SAR/CAMPA/2024-25/377-3-18 dated 27.11.2025 (copy annexed).

The following comments have been offered in the SAR:

OPINION:

“C&AG have audited the Financial Statements of National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (National Authority) which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March, 2025 and the Income & Expenditure Account/Receipts & Payment Account for the year then ended, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of Significant Accounting Policies under Section 19(2) of the Comptroller & Auditor General's (Duties, Powers & Conditions of Service) Act, 1971.

The Audit Report contains the comments of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) on the accounting treatment only with regard to classification, conformity with the best accounting practices, accounting standards, disclosure norms, etc. Audit observations on financial transactions regarding compliance with the Law, Rules and Regulations (Propriety & Regularity) and efficiency cum performance aspects, etc., if any, are reported through inspection reports/CAG's audit reports separately.

In our opinion, the accompanying Financial Statements of National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (National Authority) read together with the Accounting Policies and Notes thereon and matters mentioned in the Separate Audit Report, which follows, **give a true and fair view of the Financial Position of the autonomous body as at March 31, 2025, and its Financial Performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Uniform Format of Accounts/format applicable to the Autonomous Bodies**”.

(A) BALANCE SHEET

1. Assets (Understatement of Fixed Assets)

1.1 Fixed Assets (Schedule 8) ₹55.94 lakh

1.1.1 Understatement of Fixed Assets

The National Authority had incurred an expenditure of 17.02 lakh towards the purchase of assets during the financial year 2024-25. However, this amount had not been included in the Schedule-8 (Fixed Assets) of Annual Accounts of the National Authority. This had resulted in understatement of Fixed Assets by 15.56 lakh and depreciation by Rs. 1.46 lakh and overstatement of revenue expenditure by ₹17.02 lakh.

B. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Although the National Authority's stated Accounting Policy is to prepare its Financial Statements on an accrual basis, in practice, it is maintaining its accounts predominantly on a cash basis. Revenue and expenses are generally recorded when cash is received or paid, rather than when they are earned or incurred. Only a limited number of year-end provisions were made to approximate accruals, which is not sufficient to reflect the true Financial Position and performance on the accrual basis of accounting.

As a specific instance, the National Authority had not recorded TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) payable under schedule 7: Current Liabilities and Provisions, despite it being a statutory obligation. The omission of such liabilities leads to understatement of Current Liabilities and misrepresentation of the Financial Position of the Authority. This not only violates the body's own stated Accounting Policy but also reflects non-compliance with standard accounting practices and statutory requirements.

C. GENERAL

1. The amount of ₹2,19,295.35 lakh (Rs.1,09,521.06 lakh + ₹1,07,299.54 lakh + Rs. 2,474.75 lakh) as received by the Authority from user agencies through bank accounts of states/UTs maintained by it during February and March 2025 respectively was not remitted to the Public Account before close of the financial year.

2. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016 and Compensatory Afforestation Fund (Accounting Procedure) Rules 2018 provide for the collection of deposits by the State CAMPA Authorities and thereafter distribution of the deposited monies in a 90:10 ratio between respective State and National Authority by transferring to the relevant head in the Public Account. However, during scrutiny of records, it was noticed that the amount deposited by user agencies in the bank accounts for respective States was being managed by the National Authority CAMPA. Moreover, in violation of the laid down procedure, the collected amount was being initially transferred to the Public Account of India under Major Head-8336 'Civil Deposits' for further distribution to the National/State Compensatory Afforestation Funds.

3. An amount of ₹7,455.00 lakh has not been disclosed as Contingent Liabilities under Notes to Accounts arise from the judgment passed by the Hon'ble Madras High Court on 08/08/2023. [This judgment has been contested by the National Authority in the Hon'ble SCI and the same is presently *sub-judice*.]

4. The National Authority received confirmation (01/03/2025) from Union Bank of India regarding deposits of ₹1095.21 crore in saving bank accounts of 37 States/UTs during February 2025. Audit

observed that the Authority instructed the bank for depositing the said amount of ₹1095.21 crore to Public Account of India on 27 March 2025 and the same was credited in Public Account of India during April 2025. Thus, due to lackadaisical approach of the Authority ₹1095.21 crore remained outside the Public Account of India for more than one month.

5. National Authority has disclosed income of ₹169826.99 lakh in its Financial Statement for FY 2024-25. However, the authority had not provided a valid Income Tax Exemption Certificate/notification under Section 10 (46A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

6. Non-Production of Records

During the course of audit for the Financial Year 2024-25 and reverification of replies furnished by the National Authority, Audit observed that the National Authority did not maintain its books of accounts such as journal entries, expenditure/income vouchers, bank book, bank reconciliation statements, etc. for the year under audit

7. Non-Reconciliation Amount of ₹59952.26 lakh

As per the accounting procedure prescribed under para 7 of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (Accounting Procedure) Rules 2018, the Pay and Accounts Office (PAO), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has to maintain a broadsheet of receipts and payments from the National Fund and effect reconciliation on monthly basis with the National Authority. The Separate Audit Report of the National CAMPA for the year 2023-24 also commented on unreconciled amount of 2,86,642.12 lakh as on 31st March 2024. Out of this, an amount of ₹26,689.86 lakh was reconciled and accounted for in the annual accounts of National CAMPA for year 2024-25. Further, National Authority made efforts to reconcile the difference of ₹59,952.26 lakh, which is likely to be adjusted in the FY 2025-26 by the National Authority. In view of the documents provided in support of reconciliation of difference of ₹59,952.26 lakh between the accounts of the National Authority and the PAO, no proper supporting documents have been provided for ₹4878.97 lakh. Thus, this amount of ₹4878.97 lakh remained unreconciled between the annual accounts of the National Authority and the PAO.

D. MANAGEMENT LETTER:

The office of DG(Audit) in their letter dated 24.11.2025 as stated that Deficiencies which have not been included in the Audit Report have been brought to the notice of the Chief Executive Officer, National Authority CAMPA through the Management Letter issued separately for remedial and corrective action.

DGA (CE) SD also mentioned that the Annual Accounts for the year 2024-25 should be adopted by the National CAMPA, New Delhi, before presented to both Houses of Parliament. Three copies of each document presented to Parliament should be forwarded to audit office and two copies to Comptroller and Auditor General of India along with the date(s) of presentation to both Houses of Parliament.

Decision sought: -

Separate Audit Report (SAR) of Annual Account for the year 2024-25 is submitted to Governing Body for appraisal. After approval by the Governing Body, these along with Annual Reports will be tabled before the Parliament.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: MAJOR INITIATIVES OF NATIONAL AUTHORITY CAMPA

5.1 DIGITAL ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATIONS

1. Background

As per the provisions of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016 and Rules, 2018 along with subsequent guidelines on Compensatory Afforestation Fund utilisation, States/UTs are required to prepare and submit Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) for activities approved against diverted forest land. Traditionally, the APO submission, appraisal, and approval processes were manual, leading to delays, inconsistencies, and limited transparency.

To strengthen governance, financial accountability, and real-time monitoring under CAMPA, the National Authority has introduced the Digital APO module.

2. Objective of the Digital APO Portal

The Digital APO system aims to:

1. Standardise and digitize the submission of APOs by States/UTs for all approved CAMPA activities.
2. Enable end-to-end online processing—from proposal creation at DCF/DFO level to verification by CF/CCF and approval by State CAMPA/NA-CAMPA.
3. Ensure data accuracy, integrated financial planning, and real-time progress tracking for physical and financial achievements.
4. Facilitate transparency and timely approvals with automated workflows and geo-tagged information.
5. Provide analytics dashboards for monitoring fund utilisation, plantation performance, and overall progress of CAMPA activities.

3. Present Status of Digital APO Rollout

The Digital APO module has been operationalised for the FY 2026-27 cycle. States/UTs are now required to prepare and submit APOs exclusively through the online system only. The platform provides:

- Creation and consolidation of APOs at field division level
- Verification checkpoints at CF/CCF levels
- Workflow-enabled approval at State CEO CAMPA
- Final submission to National Authority, CAMPA
- Integrated dashboards on fund proposed, approved, and utilised
- Plantation and thematic analytics (survival rate, species planted, etc.)

4. Capacity Building through Zonal Workshops

To ensure effective adoption and address technical/operational challenges, five zonal orientation workshops were organised by the National Authority, CAMPA with participation from State/UT Forest Departments, SPMUs, and frontline divisions.

Zonal Workshops Conducted as per the following given details:

1. West Zone – Gandhinagar, Gujarat held on 28.08.2025
2. North-East Zone – Guwahati, Assam held on 29.08.2025
3. South Zone – Hyderabad, Telangana held on 01.09.2025
4. Central/East Zone – Ranchi, Chhattisgarh held on 18.09.2025

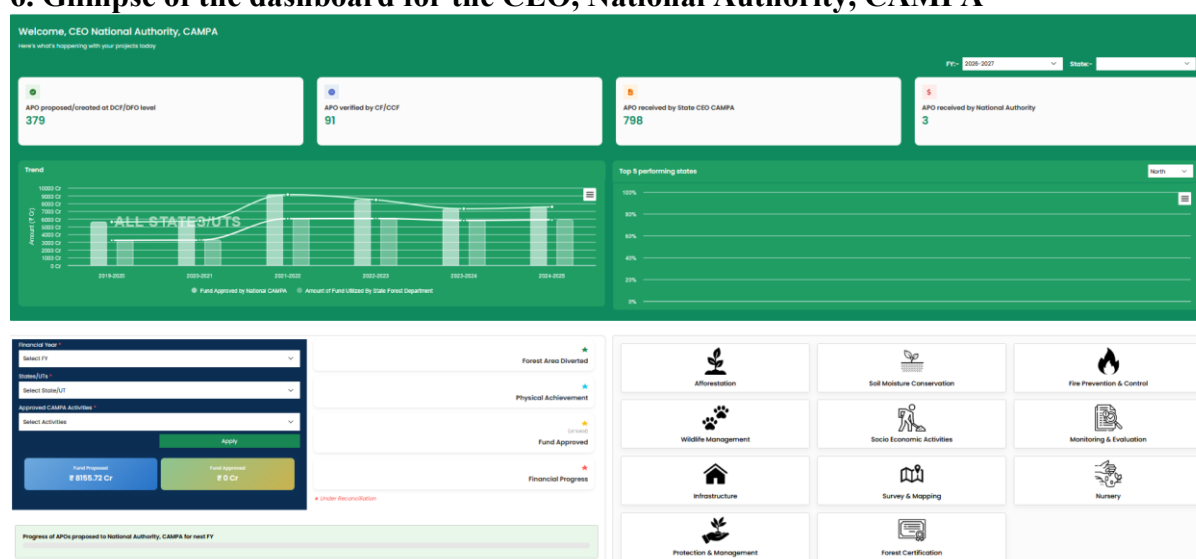
5. North Zone – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh / Punjab held on 02.09.2025

These workshops ensured readiness across all States/UTs for leveraging the Digital APO system during the FY 2026-27 planning cycle.

5. Way Forward

1. Mandate 100% digital submission and approval of APOs by all States/UTs.
2. Regular monitoring of APO progress through National Dashboard Analytics.
3. Monthly virtual review meetings to address operational gaps.
4. Integration of Digital APO with:
 - GIS-based monitoring
 - Real-time plantation tracking

6. Glimpse of the dashboard for the CEO, National Authority, CAMPA



7. Placed for information

1. The Digital APO system be formally adopted as the *single and mandatory platform* for preparation, submission, and approval of APOs from FY 2026-27 onward.
2. States/UTs be directed to complete APO preparation strictly through the system as per timelines.
3. National Authority shall continue the capacity-building at the national level and provide technical support to ensure seamless implementation and evolution of the online system.

5.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF GEOSPATIAL MONITORING & EVALUATION SYSTEM FOR NATIONAL AUTHORITY, CAMPA (GIS LAB)

1. Introduction

The **Geospatial Monitoring & Evaluation System for National Authority CAMPA** is envisioned as a unified, technology-driven framework to ensure **transparent, scientific, and efficient monitoring** of all activities implemented under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016 and CAF Rules, 2018.

This integrated system brings together three major components:

- a) **Mandatory Activities:** Focused on spatial monitoring of Compensatory Afforestation (CA), Additional CA, Penal CA, CAT Plans, IWMP, and other mandated activities using satellite data, GIS, and advanced analytics.
- b) **NPV – Rule 5(2) & 5(3):** Covers Forest regeneration, wildlife management, protection infrastructure, and institutional strengthening activities, enabling geospatial tracking and evaluation of ecological restoration and conservation interventions.
- c) **Ongoing Schemes:** Encompasses all ongoing CAMPA-funded schemes including forestry research, wildlife conservation, afforestation programmes, and policy-driven initiatives, ensuring their systematic monitoring and performance assessment.

The system integrates spatial and non-spatial datasets, including KML-based activity mapping, satellite imagery (LISS-IV, Sentinel, Landsat), and field-based verification through mobile applications. It leverages GIS platforms (ArcGIS Enterprise) to develop a centralized geospatial database, web portal, and interactive dashboard for real-time monitoring.

The comprehensive technical action plan indicates: -

1. State/UTs wise KML file database preparation
2. Satellite imagery integration (preferably biannual LISS IV 5.8m resolution imagery and ESRI Basemap)
3. Development of Web Portal & Dashboard using ArcGIS Pro Advanced and ArcGIS Enterprise
4. Vegetation, Forest fire & Moisture indices (NDVI, EVI, SMI) formulation and integration.
5. It is also intended to use the Forest type classification zoning for the generation of these indices and its integration.
6. Attribute based monitoring (Financial Year, State, District, Division etc.)
7. Satellite image analysis using machine learning to detect plantation health and canopy growth.
8. Time-series analysis of remote sensing data to track canopy change percentages.
9. Automated alerts for plantation degradation zones.
10. Any other feature which could be added in future.

2. Standard Operating Procedure

4.1 Primary Data Collection & Compilation

- a) Database Preparation of Mandatory Activities Under Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016
- b) Database Preparation of Activities Supported under Rule 5(2) and 5(3) of Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Rules, 2018
- c) Database Preparation of Ongoing Schemes under National Authority CAMPA

4.2 Legacy Data Compilation

- a. Data shall be compiled from 1980 onwards to present
- b. Backlog and completed activities must be included
- c. Data must be consistent with:
 - a) Forest Clearance records
 - b) CAMPA Annual Plan of Operation

4.3 Source-Level Verification

- a. Data shall be verified by:
 - a) State CEO
 - b) Divisional Forest Officers (DFO)
- b. Validate with:
 - c) Approval orders and APOs
- c. Duplicate entries must be eliminated (if any)

5. Spatial Data Preparation (KML/Shapefile)

5.1 Data Conversion

- a. Convert KML file to layer using GIS Software
- b. All datasets shall be converted/Imported into:
 - a) File Geodatabase (.gdb)
 - b) The feature datasets are to be depicted as point, line, or polygon features, depending on the nature of the work and activity.

5.2 Coordinate System Standardization (if applicable)

- a. All datasets shall be reprojected into:
 - a) WGS 84 / UTM Zone (as applicable)

5.3 (i) Non-Spatial Data (Attribute) Standardization and Integration with Spatial data (Point, Line and Polygon) for Mandatory Activities and NPV Rule 5(2) & 5(3)

5.3 (ii) Non-Spatial Data (Attribute) Standardization and Integration with Spatial data (Point, Line and Polygon) for Ongoing Schemes

5.4 Data Quality Check & Validation

- a. Geometry Validation
- b. Topology Validation
- c. Correct errors before submission

5.5 Spatial Accuracy Verification

5.6 Attribute Validation

Check:

- a) Missing values
- b) Incorrect entries
- c) Duplicate records

Cross-Verification

Verify data with:

- a) Annual Plan of Operation (APO)
- b) Progress Report

5.7 Data Certification & Submission to National Authority CAMPA

- a. Data shall be certified by:
 - a) State CEO
 - b) Divisional Forest Officer
- b. Final repository submits to National Authority CAMPA

6. Compliance

All States/UTs must adhere strictly to this SOP

Note: *State/UT CAMPA authorities may engage 1-2 GIS/Remote Sensing (RS) professionals depending on the volume of work, on a contractual basis for a limited duration to support activities related to data development, preparation, and geospatial monitoring under this SOP.*

*The remuneration and associated costs for such engagement may be met from the **interest accrued on funds available with the State/UT CAMPA**, in accordance with applicable financial rules and guidelines.*

5.3 HARIT-SANKALP (SYSTEM FOR AFFORESTATION, NURSERY KNOWLEDGE AND LINKAGE PLATFORM)

Background

In order to strengthen planning, transparency, and traceability in nursery management and supply of planting material under Forest Nurseries, the **Harit-SANKALP (System for Accreditation, Nursery Knowledge for Afforestation Linkage Platform) Portal** has been developed as a centralized digital platform with FAO-India as the consultative partners.

The portal interface reflects a comprehensive, role-based workflow covering advance planning, inventory management, traceability, and monitoring from seed source to dispatch.

Key Functional Features:

- Unique Code Generation for Every Entity:** As reflected in the nursery registration and master data screens, the portal generates a **system-defined unique identification code** for each registered- a) Seed Production Areas, b) Seed Orchards, c) Seed Processing Units, d) Seed Storage Units and e) Nurseries; ensuring uniform identification and eliminating duplication across States and Divisions.
- QR Code Generation:** The portal interface displays **auto-generated QR codes** linked to nurseries and planting material batches. These QR codes enable instant access to nursery and batch details through scanning, facilitating field-level verification and monitoring.
- Mapping of all Existing Nurseries of Forest Departments in States:** The nursery mapping screens demonstrate the integration of **all existing nurseries** into the Harit-SANKALP framework. Each mapped nursery is converted into the standardized digital format and assigned a unique code and QR code.
- End-to-End Traceability of Planting Material:** The portal workflow screens illustrate complete **traceability from seed source to nursery raising and final dispatch**, enabling tracking of planting material across stages and ensuring quality control and accountability.
- Role-Based Dashboards for Improved Visibility:** The portal home screen provides **dashboard-based visual summaries**, displaying key information such as nursery capacity, availability of planting material, bookings, and dispatch status. Dashboards are customized based on user roles to enhance visibility and decision-making.
- Advance Booking Facility:** The portal provides online **advance booking module**, visible on the user dashboard, enabling field units and implementing agencies to book planting material advance based on plantation schedules. This supports better production planning and demand forecasting at nursery level.
- Multi-Level Login and Access Control:** The login and user management screens show **multi-level, role-based access** at all levels of the Forest departments hierarchy:
 - National
 - State (All three- CEO, State Authority; PCCF Development and PCCF Silviculture)
 - Circle
 - Division
 - Range

Dispatch Slip		
Name:	Arann	
District:	Bajjal	
Division:	FUD	
Nursery:	AAA	
(Plant's Dispatch Information)		
Species:	Vitex sandawa (Phytoecia's source)	
Sold to:	Goverment Forest	
Name:	Ben	
Total No of Plants:	400	
Type of Plant:	9 days	
Height of Plant:	0.30 cm	
Dispatch Date:	16/11/2022	
Amount (if any):	0.00	

[illegible]

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced transparency and accountability in nursery and planting material management.
- Improved advance planning and optimal utilisation of nursery capacity, seed production supply chains in various agroclimatic zones.
- Real-time, dashboard-based monitoring at all administrative levels.
- Strengthened traceability and quality assurance under CAMPA-supported activities.
- Seamless coordination between National, State, and field units through a single digital platform.

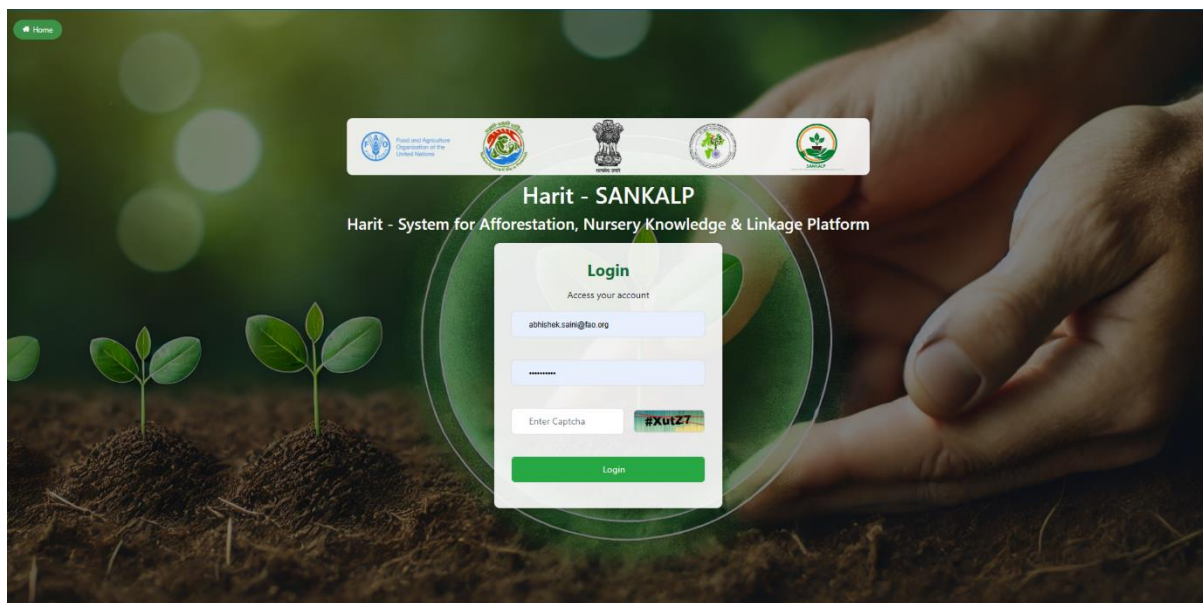


Fig: Harit-SANKALP Portal

Placed for kind information of the Governing Body of National Authority, CAMPA.

5.4 MIS FOR SCHEMES SUPPORTED UNDER NATIONAL FUND

Background

The National Authority, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) supports the funding of specific schemes/programmes in accordance with the provisions of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016, vide section 5(b)(iii) from the National fund and the National Authority is also responsible for the execution of these schemes vide section 15(1)(iii).

In pursuance of this statutory mandate, the National Authority, CAMPA supports eligible national-level schemes relating to forestry, wildlife conservation, ecological restoration, capacity building, research, and other activities aligned with the objectives of compensatory afforestation and environmental sustainability.

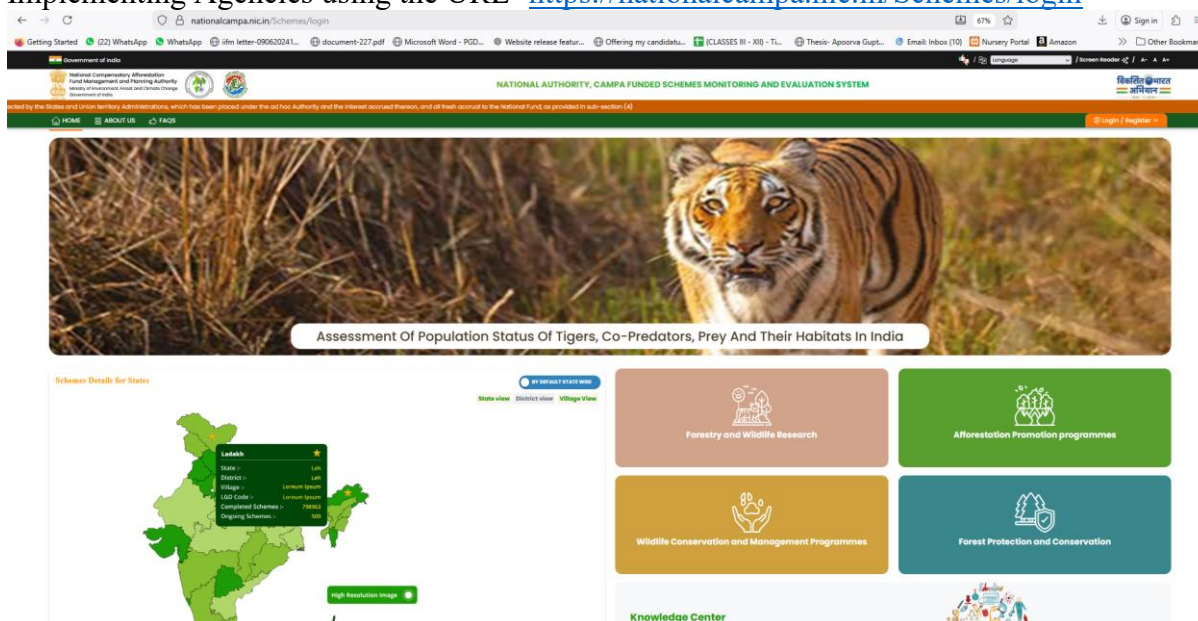
To streamline the end-to-end process of scheme proposal, formulation, appraisal, approval, and monitoring, an online Management Information System (MIS) Portal has been developed with the technical support from BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

2. Purpose of the MIS Portal

The MIS Portal aims to provide an integrated digital platform that facilitates:

1. Submission of Scheme Proposals by Implementing Agencies (Central Ministries, Institutions, Research Bodies, etc.).
2. Verification and Technical Appraisal of proposals by the concerned Programme Divisions.
3. Placement of Appraised Schemes before the National Authority, CAMPA for consideration and approval.
4. Funding Workflow Management.
5. Tracking, Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation of scheme progress throughout its lifecycle.

3. Glimpse of the portal- The portal is accessible and in use by all the Programme Divisions and Implementing Agencies using the URL- <https://nationalcampa.nic.in/Schemes/login>



4. Structure and Workflow of the Portal

The portal has been structured to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficiency through the following sequence:

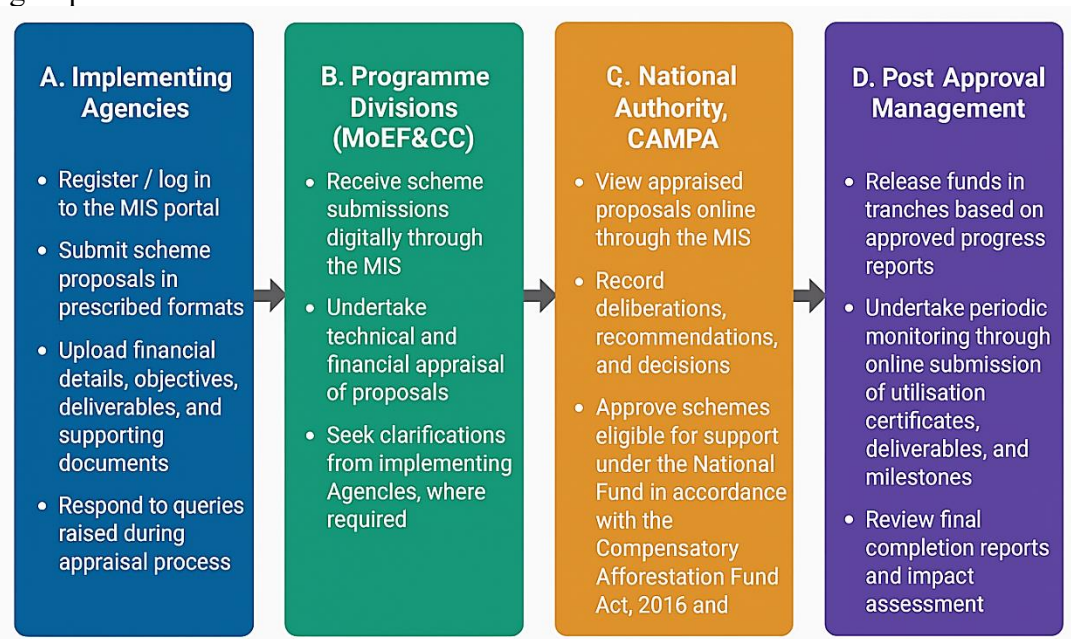


Fig: Flow diagram for the MIS portal for schemes

5. Key Features of the MIS Portal

1. End-to-end digitised workflow to eliminate manual processing.

2. User-specific dashboards for Implementing Agencies, Programme Divisions, and Authority members.
3. Built-in scrutiny checklists to enhance accuracy of appraisal.
4. Automated notifications and reminders for timely actions.
5. Document repository for all scheme-related files and approvals.
6. Real-time monitoring module for financial and physical progress.
7. Audit-ready, time-stamped records for all actions taken.

6. Benefits of the Digital Intervention

A. Enhanced Transparency

1. All proposals, actions, and decisions are digitally logged and time-stamped.
2. Users can view the status of schemes at each stage, reducing opacity.
3. Approvals are documented in a structured and verifiable format.

B. Improved Accountability

1. Clearly defined roles and responsibilities at each level.
2. Automated audit trails ensure accountability of decisions and fund utilisation.

C. Efficient Monitoring & Reporting

1. Centralised dashboard presents progress of all schemes under the National Fund.
2. Facilitates data-driven decision-making, mid-course corrections, and impact assessments.
3. Enhances institutional memory and long-term record maintenance.

D. Timely Processing and Reduced Delays

1. Digital workflows shorten the time required for scrutiny and approval.
2. Quick communication between Programme Divisions and Implementing Agencies.

E. Strengthening Governance

1. Supports compliance with CAF Act, 2016.
2. Ensures optimal utilisation of National Fund resources for high-impact schemes.
3. Promotes standardisation across Ministries and institutions.

6. Agenda for Consideration

The Governing Body/National Authority is requested to:

1. **Consider and approve** the launch of the MIS Portal for Schemes supported under the National Fund of CAMPA.
2. **Authorize the adoption** of the portal as the mandatory medium for submission, appraisal, approval, monitoring, and reporting of all schemes under Rule 5(b)(iii).
3. **Permit necessary refinements** and integration with existing Government systems (e.g., PFMS, e-office) as required.
4. **Direct Implementing Agencies and Programme Divisions** to operationalise the system from the date of its notification.

Placed for kind information of the Governing Body of National Authority, CAMPA.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: MISCELLANEOUS PROPOSALS OF NATIONAL AUTHORITY CAMPA

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.1: PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR SETTING UP NATIONAL COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION FUND MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING AUTHORITY OFFICE AT NEW DELHI THROUGH NBCC/MOHUA

The National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (National CAMPA) came into existence on 30 September 2018 as per provisions of the Compensatory Afforestation Act, 2016 (CAF Act, 2016) enacted on 3rd August 2016. The National CAMPA (National Authority), with the support of State/ UT CAMPA is working for compensating the loss of forests, tree cover and biodiversity due to diversion of forest land for various development/ non-forestry purposes. Apart from important works being done under State APO's, the NA is providing financial support to Scientific institutions viz., ICFRE, FSI, WII, and other Authorities / Divisions of the MoEFCC. As on date, National CAMPA is managing entire corpus of CAMPA funds including approving Annual Plans of Operations of State/UT CAMPA Authorities. The National Authority is supporting more than 50 schemes of National importance on varied subjects related with forestry, wildlife and ecological services. After transferring more than Rs.84,556.43 crores of State Shares of CAMPA funds to respective States/UTs the Authority is currently managing more than Rs. 10,000.00 crores of National Fund. The role and responsibility of the National CAMPA is expanding to fulfil the mandate given in the CAF Act, 2016.

Previously upto January 2025, the National Authority was functioning from about 1500 sq. ft. at 4th Floor, 3rd Block, CGO complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi allocated by MoEFCC to National Authority which was insufficient space to accommodate office space need of Joint CEO, Deputy CEO, Financial Adviser, 6 Consultants and 8 Office Assistants. Due to shortage of space office of CEO, CAMPA was functioning from Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor bagh (IPB). The proper office space for employees is must for keeping the employees motivated for efficient delivering desired outputs as mandated in Authority.

The office space is a major constraint for appointing regular staff of the Authority. Section-8 of the CAF Act mandates National Authority to manage and utilize CAMPA fund besides discharging other important duties and responsibilities like monitoring of utilization of CAMPA fund in various states and assisting Executive Committee and Governing Body in following functions:

- i. Approval of Annual plan of operations of State Authorities.
- ii. Formulation of proposals for schemes funded by National CAMPA.
- iii. Execution of schemes funded by National CAMPA.
- iv. Management and transfer of Fund.
- v. Annual report and Audit of National CAMPA.
- vi. Monitoring and Evaluation of CAMPA activities including State CAMPA
- vii. Organizing conferences/ seminars and publication of literatures.
- viii. Facilitation for scientific, technological and other assistance that may be required by State/UT Authorities, etc.

The requirement of office space of 13,902 sq. ft had been calculated for different ranks of Officers and Staff as per Ministry of Urban development O.M. dated 16.03.2017. In December 2023, CCU Division of the Ministry has vetted 11,658 sq. ft. based on the MoHUA' circular vide above cited O.M. in this regard. In computation of area, the requirement of Monitoring and Evaluation Cell, NIC-IT team (Parivesh) for CAMPA and a full-fledged GIS Lab were not included. These area works out to 2,500 Sq Ft. approximately.

As informed by the GA Division of MoEF&CC, matter was taken up with the Directorate of Estates (DoE) vide letter No. 4-10/2010-CAMPA dated 15.02.2024 and DoE stated vide letter dated February 2024 (that National CAMPA Authority is a Statutory body created under Compensatory Afforestation Act, 2016 and as per DoE OM dated 16.03.2017 statutory body is not eligible for allotment of office space in General Pool Office Accommodation (GPOA) building. DoE is facing an acute shortage of office space and no space is available for allotment in any GPOA building in Delhi.

The proposal for purchase of office space from Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs through NBCC (INDIA) LTD (A Govt. of India Enterprise) on Freehold Basis in World Trade Center, New Delhi at Nauroji Nagar of 15,701 sq. ft. (carpet area of 11,829 sq. ft.) costing approx. Rs 62.39 crore for meeting the office space requirement for which technical vetting was obtained from the CCU and was placed as Agenda Item No. 13 of 26th meeting of Executive Committee held on 08.12.2023 (Date of E-Auction was 14.12.2023).

The EC agreed to the requirement of office space as vetted by Central Construction Unit (CCU) of the Ministry for the office of the National Authority. Further, the EC opined that the National Authority may apart from purchase of office space also explore the rental spaces for running the office of National Authority. The office space may be purchased or hired with the approval of the Competent Authority as this action is within the ambit of the rules framed under the CAF Act, 2018. The proposal was recommended to be placed before the Governing Body for approval. The decision of the EC was ratified by the Governing Body in its 4th Meeting held on 29.12.2023.

In this backdrop, with the prior approval of the Competent Authority and concurrence of Integrated Finance Division (IFD), office space of approximately 1417 sqm (equal to 15,252.48 square feet) at 3rd Floor of Supreme Court Metro Station belonging to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation LTD (DMRC) was obtained in January, 2025 at Monthly Lease Fee Amount of Rs 59,85,974.80/- (@3580/sqm inclusive of GST).

Provision in the CAF Act, 2016-

The Section-8 of the CAF Act, 2016 mandates National Authority to manage, administer, plan and utilize CAMPA fund received from user agencies as compensatory levies for raising of CA and other activities for compensating ecosystem services besides discharging other important duties and responsibilities like monitoring of utilization of CAMPA fund in various states and UTs. Further, the section 5(b)(i), provides that for non-recurring and recurring expenditure for the management of the National Authority including the salary and allowances payable to its officers and other employees. Sufficient funds are available with the National Authority in public fund account which can meet the requirement of purchasing the office space.

The purchase of office space is one time expenditure and is very well covered under the non-recurring expenditure mentioned in the Section 5(b)(i) of the CAF Act, 2016. The Capital Expenditure is a type of non-recurring Expenditure and under the CAF Rules 2018, there is provision for creation of capital assets under non-recurring management expenditure under rule 32 also.

The transaction would be Government to Government transfer of fund without asking any additional budget from the finance wing or the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India, nor it will burden any of the organ of the Government setup as the fund proposed to be utilised are generated through the system provided in the CAF Act, 2016, which empowers the National Authority to incur non – recurring expenditure in accordance with the Rule 32 of CAF Rules, 2018.

Financial Implication

The National Authority should be entrusted to explore the possibility for purchase of ready to move office space from Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs through NBCC (INDIA) LTD as one-time capital expenditure.

As per the NBCC E-Auction notice no. NBCC/CGM/WTC/2024/1158 dated 31.07.2024 for sale of Commercial Built-up Space on Freehold Basis in World Trade Center, New Delhi at Nauroji Nagar, the reserve price of super built-up area was @Rs 37161/-per sft. Therefore, the approximate cost of 15,000 Sq. Ft. (including PLC, Parking and allied services) works to Rs. 60.00-80.00 Crore (including

10% escalation over 2025). The price discovery will be based on the Government bidding / E-Auction to be organized by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs through NBCC (INDIA) LTD.

It is noticed that the NBCC has further developed the office facilities opposite to World Trade Centre and adjoining areas which is likely to be announced during next 03-06 months' time. As per MoHUA norms, around Rs. 2.00 to 3.00 Crore are to be deposited as EMD before bidding process/auction.

Expected savings

Presently, National CAMPA is functioning from leased office accommodation located on the 3rd Floor of the Supreme Court Metro Station building, owned by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (DMRC), at a monthly licence fee of ₹63,45,133/- (Rupees Sixty-Three Lakh Forty-Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Three Only), with an annual escalation of 6%. Consequently, the recurring expenditure on licence fee is substantial (approx.. Rs 8.00 crore annually) and continues to increase every year, resulting in a significant financial burden.

contrast, acquisition of permanent office space would involve a one-time capital expenditure, eliminating the recurring liability of licence fee and its annual escalation. The purchase of office premises would create a permanent asset for National CAMPA while ensuring long-term financial prudence.

It is estimated that procurement of office space would result in savings of approximately ₹8.00 to ₹10.00 crore per annum by avoiding recurring lease/licence payments.

Further, the office building constructed by NBCC houses the headquarters of several Ministries, Government Departments, Autonomous Bodies, and Public Sector Undertakings of the Government of India. Establishing the office of National CAMPA in such a government office complex would provide a suitable institutional environment, facilitate better inter-departmental coordination, and ensure long-term administrative convenience.

In view of the above, purchase of office accommodation appears to be a financially prudent and strategically beneficial option as compared to continuing with leased premises, considering the recurring and escalating licence fee and the creation of a permanent government asset.

Decision of Executive Committee

The Executive committee in its 37th meeting held on 30.12.2025 recommended the proposal for purchase of ready to move in office space from Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs through NBCC (INDIA) LTD as one-time capital expenditure based on the price discovery through Government bidding/ E-Auction.

Decision Sought

The Governing Body may like to approve the recommendation of EC regarding purchase of ready to move in office space from Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs through its PSU "NBCC (INDIA) LTD" as one-time capital expenditure based on the price discovery through Government bidding/ E-Auction.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.2: PROVIDING NECESSARY BUDGETARY PROVISIONS FOR MEETING THE NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURE (CAPITAL NATURE) REQUIRED FOR MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL AUTHORITY

1. Sub section b(i) of Section 5 of CAF Act, 2016 stipulated that the monies available in the National Fund shall be disbursed and utilised for non-recurring and recurring expenditure for the management of the National Authority including the salary and allowances payable to its officer and other employees. Further, Rule 32 of CAF Rule 2018 provides that the National Authority shall prepare its budget for the next financial year showing the estimated receipts and expenditure of National Authority in Form I. S.No. 3 (i)(b) of Form-I describes the non-recurring management expenditure like creation of Capital Assets.
2. It is submitted that after approval in 6th meeting of Governing Body of National Authority and by the administrative Ministry, financial power has been delegated to HoD under DFPR issued vide order dated 14.10.2025 (**Annexure**) under following Capital Expenditure (Assets) Heads:-

S. No of DFPR dated 14.10.2025	Object Code	Object Head	Descriptions
26	71	Information, Computers Telecommunication (ICT)	Procurement of information, computers, telecommunication equipments and computer software etc. exceeding the threshold limit of Rs.1.00 Lakhs or three years of useful life.
29	52	Machinery and Equipment	Procurement of Machinery and equipments,
30	72	Buildings and Structures	Procurement of Office Building, residential buildings and structures.
31	60	Other Capital expenditure	It will include all other capital expenditure which cannot be classified any of the above capital object head.

3. To efficiently support these operations, as mandated in the CAF Act 2016 and CAF Rule 2018, it is essential to allocate proper budget head in Annual Budget Estimates (BE) to avoid inconsistency between Delegation of Financial Powers to HoD of National Authority and non-allotment of funds in annual budget allotment due to non-availability of respective object heads. For this purpose, it is proposed to create relevant object heads to facilitate the non-recurring expenditure against which extent of financial power has already delegated in DFPR as issued by the National authority vide order dated 14.10.2025. This proposal was submitted in the 39th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority. The EC recommended the proposal.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: As recommended by the EC, the approval of the above stated proposal may kindly be approved by the Governing Body may kindly approve.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: PILOT SCHEMES/PROJECTS IN FORESTRY & WILDLIFE SUPPORTED FROM NATIONAL FUND [Section-5 (b)(iii) of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016]

For Information of the Governing Body

The details of **12 (Twelve) completed** and **60 (Sixty) ongoing** schemes for information of the Governing Body.

1) COMPLETED SCHEMES/PROJECTS- 12

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Scheme/Project Name	Project Period	Project Cost	Fund released	Implementing Agency	Programme Division	Starting Year
		Completed Schemes					
1	Centre of Excellence on Forest Based Livelihoods in Uttarakhand-A Pilot Study” UCOST.	5	2.784	2.2488	UCOST, Dehradun	UCOST	2015-16
2	National Programme for Conservation and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (FGRs): Pilot project on ‘Creation of Centre of Excellence on Forest Genetic Resources (CoFGR)	6	8.61	8.60	FRI, Dehradun	RT Division	2015-16
3	Preparation of DPR with LiDAR Survey for one pilot watershed in forest area of each State/UT	0.9	18.38	22.98	Water & Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd. (WAPCOS), New Delhi	NAEB	2020-2021
4	Execution of Readiness Activities for Implementation of REDD+ in India	1.8	1.20	0.72	ICFRE, Dehradun	RT Division	2020-21
5	Implementation of Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of the	1	1.521	1.521	NTCA, Delhi	NTCA	2022-23

Sl. No.	Scheme/Project Name	Project Period	Project Cost	Fund released	Implementing Agency	Programme Division	Starting Year
	Tiger Reserves” submitted by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)						
6	Establishing Meta population of Cheetahs in India	1	29.47	29.47	NTCA, Delhi	NTCA	2022-23
7	Nationwide Census of Elephant Population in the country	1	3.0019	3.00	WII, Dehradun	Project Elephant Division	2022-23
8	Study of short-and long-term impact of Climate Change on Biodiversity of Protected area in Goa by setting up of Automatic Weather Stations	1	0.65	0.65	Goa State Authority	Climate Change Division of MoEFCC	2022-23
9	Establishment an FSI cell in Each State for Strengthening, Monitoring, and Forest Resource Assessment	1	4.33	2.59 was released but not utilized by FSI. The same released amount with interest has been deposited to PAO, MOEFCC.	FSI	SU Division	2019-20
10	Habitat improvement and conservation breeding of Great Indian Bustard – ESRP	5	35.73	35.73	WII	WL Division	2015-16/ June 2024
11	Range-wide enumeration of River Dolphin populations in India	1	10.15	10.15	WII	Wildlife Division	2021-22/ December 2025
12	Phase II Proposal for Synchronized Elephant estimation.	6 months	3.00	3.00	WII	Project Elephant Division	2023-24
	Total			Rs. 120.66 crore			

2) ON-GOING SCHEMES/PROJECTS- 60

S. No.	Scheme/Project Name	Starting Year/Extension	Project Period	Project cost	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Fund utilized (Rs. in crore)	Implementing Agency	Programme Division
Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)/Forest Research Institute (FRI)								
1	Strengthening Forestry Research for Ecological Sustainability and Productivity Enhancement	2019-20/ 2025-26	6	313.67	216.18	189.62	ICFRE	RT Division
2	Estimation of Economic Losses in Real Term Per Hectare Basis due to Forest Fire in Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh.	2020-21/March 2023	2	3.79	3.4	3.40	ICFRE	Forest Protection Division
3	Preparation of DPR for Rejuvenation of Damodar and Subarnarekha rivers through forestry Interventions.	2021-2022 /September 2024	2	1.17	1.05	1.05	ICFRE	NAEB
4	Mapping monitoring and management of <i>Lantana camara</i> through utilization for improving livelihood of people in forest fringe villages of India.	2023-24	5	14.49	14.49	0.71	ICFRE	RT Division
5	Rehabilitation and Retrofitting of FRI Heritage Building	2023-24	1 year	10.35	10.35	10.35	ICFRE-FRI	RT Division

S. No.	Scheme/Project Name	Starting Year/Extension	Project Period	Project cost	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Fund utilized (Rs. in crore)	Implementing Agency	Programme Division
6	Modernization of National Forest Insect Collection (NFIC) of FRI, Dehradun	2023-24	1.5 year	0.98	0.98	0.93	ICFRE-FRI	RT Division
7	Establishment of Programme Unit for Operationalization of Green Credits Programme at ICFRE	2023-24	3 years	10.00	7.28	2.33	ICFRE_FRI	HSM Division
8	Identification of superior Genotypes of <i>Olea ferruginea</i> (Royle) Bearing high oil content in North Western Himalayan Region and development of its Propagation and cultivation Techniques	2024-25	4	0.4753	0.237	0.0186	ICFRE	RT Division
9	Mass Timber based Building Construction: Capacity Building and Demonstration	2024-25	5	6.80	3.35	0.1598	ICFRE	RT Division
10	Promotion of Sandalwood cultivation through training programs across India to improve the economic status of farmers.	2024-25	5	8.58	2.86	0.0234	ICFRE	RT Division
11	National Collaborative Scheme on	2022-23	4	22.31	10.78	2.91	FRI	Forest Protection Division

S. No.	Scheme/Project Name	Starting Year/Extension	Project Period	Project cost	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Fund utilized (Rs. in crore)	Implementing Agency	Programme Division
	Forest Fire Management							
12	Renovation & Modernization of Xylarium of Forest Research Institute.	2023-24	2	1.25	1.25	0.40 (as on 26.05.2025)	FRI	RT Division
13	Strengthening of National Forest Library and Information Centre for Education and Forestry Research-FRI	2023-24	1	1.63	1.63	1.43	FRI	RT Division
14	Study on regulation and management of cone induction and seed yield in <i>Pinus gerardiana</i> ex. D. Don	2024-25	4	0.57	0.25	-	ICFRE	RT Division
Wildlife Institute of India (WII)								
1	Endangered Species Recovery Programme (ESRP)- Development of Conservation plan for Gangetic River Dolphin.	2015-16/ March 2026	5	23	23.00	20.88	WII	Wildlife Division
2	Conservation of Manipur's Brow Antlered Deer (Sangai)-ESRP	2015-16/ December 2026	5	19.95	10.31	8.39	WII	Wildlife Division
3	Recovery of Dugongs and their Habitats in India-ESRP	2015-16/ June 2026	5	23.58	18.37	16.47	WII	Wildlife Division
4	UNESCO Category 2 Centre (C2C)	2018-19/	3	18.66	18.66	16.45	WII	Wildlife Division

S. No.	Scheme/Project Name	Starting Year/Extension	Project Period	Project cost	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Fund utilized (Rs. in crore)	Implementing Agency	Programme Division
	on Natural World Heritage Management and Training for the Asia-Pacific Region	March 2026						
5	PAN India assessment and monitoring of endangered species covered under the 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) scheme of MoEFCC Government of India	2021-2022/ March 2026	2	19.05	19.05	12.21	WII	Wildlife Division
6	Phase II Proposal for Synchronized Elephant estimation.	2023-24	6 months	3.00	3.00	3.00	WII	NTCA
7	Part A Project Great Indian Bustard (Conservation Action Plan for GIB and Lesser Florican)	2024-25	5	50.96	32.10	5.41	WII	Wildlife Division
8	Part B Indian Bustard (Conservation Action Plan for GIB and Lesser Florican)	2024-25	5	26.09	5.05	-	WII	Wildlife Division
9	Genetic database of the rhino horn stockpile of Assam to curb poaching threat and assess temporal changes in	2024-25	2	0.4142	0.27	-	WII	Wildlife Division

S. N o.	Scheme/Project Name	Starting Year/Extension	Project Period	Project cost	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Fund utilized (Rs. in crore)	Implementing Agency	Programme Division
	genetic variation							
10	Assessing Elephant Corridors, Habitat Utilization and Conflict Hotspots in the Bandhavgarh Region-WII	2025-26	3	0.97	0.58	-	WII	Project Elephant Division
11	Conducting Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Elephant Reserves in India"-WII	2025-26	1.6	2.29	0.57	-	WII	Project Elephant Division
12	Range wide Enumeration of River and Estuarine Dolphin Population in India"-WII	2025-26	2.6	12.43	5.18	-	WII	Wildlife Division
13	Conservation and Management of the critically endangered gharial (Gavialis gangeticus)-WII	2025-26	5	45.15	14.10	-	WII	Wildlife Division
14	Conservation and Management of Sloth Bear in India- A Landscape based initiative-WII	2025-26	5	13.67	2.68	-	WII	Wildlife Division
15	Identifying effective wildlife management interventions for	2025-26	1.3	1.70	-	-	WII	Wildlife Division

S. No.	Scheme/Project Name	Starting Year/Extension	Project Period	Project cost	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Fund utilized (Rs. in crore)	Implementing Agency	Programme Division
	replication"-WII							
16	Establishment of National Centre of Excellence for Human Wildlife Conflict Management (NCCM) at SACON, Coimbatore as announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India"-WII-	2025-26	5	99.54	11.64	-	WII	Wildlife Division
Forest Survey of India (FSI)								
1	Monitoring Protocol for Plantations and Assets created by State Forest Departments (SFDs).	2019-20	6	13.14	5.40	1.30	FSI	SU Division
2	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	2021-2022	6	48.00	11.78	3.24	FSI	Forest Protection Division
3	Strengthening of e-Green Watch	2023-24	5 years	6.32	2.00	-	FSI	SU Division
4	Web GIS based Decision Support System	2023-24	5 years	5.00	2.99	0.90	FSI	SU Division

S. No.	Scheme/Project Name	Starting Year/Extension	Project Period	Project cost	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Fund utilized (Rs. in crore)	Implementing Agency	Programme Division
	(DSS) for forest clearance.							
5	Forest Fire Monitoring including burnt area assessment.	2023-24	5 years	9.01	-	-	FSI	SU Division
6	Above Ground Biomass (AGB) Estimation using Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) data	2023-24	5 years	2.88	0.05	Information awaited	FSI	SU Division
7	Completing the task of uploading and sharing of Recorded Forest Area (RFA) and other protected areas shapefiles with World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)-FSI	2025-26	2 years	1.50	-	-	FSI	SU Division
Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM)								
1	Establishment of a centre of excellence for Forest Landscape Restoration	2023-24	1 year	2.86	-	-	IIFM	NAEB
2	Study on impact of Voluntary relocation of villages from Tiger Reserves	2023-24	1 year	0.65	0.65	Information awaited	IIFM	RT Division
3	Ecosystem Service Valuation Studies to be conducted in the Tiger Reserves of the country	2023-24	1 year	0.82	0.82	-	IIFM	NTCA

S. No.	Scheme/Project Name	Starting Year/Extension	Project Period	Project cost	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Fund utilized (Rs. in crore)	Implementing Agency	Programme Division
4	Developing Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) Campus in Northeast and developing capacity strengthening of Forest Sector in India	2023-24	1	11.88	11.88	Information awaited	IIFM	RT Division
5	Establish a dedicated Cell of Scheme Operating Agency (SOA) to operate and manage the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)	2023-24	1	1.38	0.38	-	IIFM	RT Division
6	Ecosystem Services Valuation for Mangrove Ecosystems in India	2024-25	2	4.65	2.02	-	IIFM	RT Division
7	Building a Comprehensive Digital Repository of Important Environmental Conventions and their Conference of Party (COP) Deliberations.	2024-25	1	0.40	0.40	-	IIFM	RT Division
National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)								
1	Assessment of Population Status of Tigers, Co-predators, Prey and their habitats in India	2022-23	1	21.60	21.60	21.60	NTCA	NTCA

S. No.	Scheme/Project Name	Starting Year/Extension	Project Period	Project cost	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Fund utilized (Rs. in crore)	Implementing Agency	Programme Division
2	Conservation breeding of Cheetah (<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>) in Banni Grassland, Gujarat.	2023-24/ March 2026	2	20.31	19.96	9.95	NTCA	NTCA
3	Phase II Establishing Metapopulation of Cheetah	2024-25/ March 2027	1	57.30	26.20	-	NTCA	NTCA
4	Management of Tigers outside Tiger Reserves: A preventive strategy to deal with Man-Tiger conflict	2025-26	3	88.70	36.15	-	NTCA	NTCA
GIM/NAEB								
1	Nagar Van Yojana (620/1000 Nagar Van)	2020-21/March 2027	5	895.00	557.62	-	SFDA	NAEB
2	School Nursery Yojana	2020-21	5	49.50	4.822	-	SFDA	NAEB
3	Mangrove Initiative for Salt Pans and Habitats and Tangible Incomes-MISHTI	2023-24	5 years	100.00	88.41	12.96	NAEB/GIM	NAEB/GIM
Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)								
1	Implementing The Central Asian Flyway National Action Plan with Special Focus on Preparation of Site-Specific Activity Plan,	2019-20/ March 2025	3	3.754	1.61	1.75 (As per the report received from BNHS)	BNHS	Wildlife Division

S. No.	Scheme/Project Name	Starting Year/Extension	Project Period	Project cost	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Fund utilized (Rs. in crore)	Implementing Agency	Programme Division
	Capacity Building, Developing Bird Sensitivity Map for Setting up of Wind Energy and Species Action Plans							
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)								
1	Enhanced Capacity Building of Stakeholders and State Government on Forest Landscape Restoration and Reporting Mechanism on Bonn Challenge.	2020-21/ October 2024	3.5	5.90	3.65	3.69 as per the PPT shared by IUCN.	IUCN	NAEB
Central Zoo Authority (CZA)								
1	Setting up National Referral Center for Wildlife Disease Monitoring and Prevention-CZA	2022-2025	5	3.00	2.08	2.08	CZA	Wildlife Division
2	Commissioning of National Referral Centre-Wildlife (NRC-W)	2024-25	2	76.50	5.00	-	CZA	Wildlife Division
Impact Assessment Division (IA Division)								
1	PARIVESH 2.0	2021-2022	5	95.59	77.67	31.76	Impact Assessment Division	Impact Assessment Division
NICSI								
1	Project proposal for the yearly maintenance, Up-gradation	2016-17	-	5.96	6.81	6.81	NICSI	FC Division

S. No.	Scheme/Project Name	Starting Year/Extension	Project Period	Project cost	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Fund utilized (Rs. in crore)	Implementing Agency	Programme Division
	and FC module and Hand holding support of PARIVESH–NICS							
Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST)								
1	Roll out and Preparedness of States for using National Transit Pass System.	2023-24	3	4.67	4.17	1.26	IWST, Bengaluru	Forest Policy Division
Karnataka State Authority								
1	Development of Sandalwood and Rosewood Estates and Management of Sandalwood Reserves in Karnataka	2022-23	7	25.65	5.49	0.42	Karnataka State Authority	SU Division
Regional Offices Head Quarter (ROHQ)								
1	Proposal for seeking financial support for strengthening, monitoring and implementation of the CAF Act by Regional Offices of the MoEFCC.	2023-24	5 years	57.1162	8.31	0.28	DDGF of concerned Regional Offices	Regional Offices Headquarters (ROHQ) Division
	Total			2286.17	1329.53	403.99		

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.1: SCHEMES/PROJECTS RECOMMENDED IN 36th, 37th, 38th and 39th MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL AUTHORITY

(i) Study Proposal for Project Titled “Implementation of the Dolphin Conservation Action Plan: Conservation and Recovery of River Dolphins and Their Aquatic Habitats

Sl. No.		
A	Background	Details
1	Name of Scheme/Project:	Implementation of the Dolphin Conservation Action Plan: Conservation and Recovery of River Dolphins and Their Aquatic Habitats
2	Name of the implementing agency	Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
3	Details of the Nodal Officer of the Implementing Agency/ Institute	Dr. Gobind Sagar Bhardwaj, Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Post Box # 18, Chandrabani, Dehradun 248001, Uttarakhand Email: dwii@wii.gov.in vishnupriya@wii.gov.in Phone-0135-2640114-15.
4	Name of the Program Division of the MoEFCC	Wildlife Division, MoEFCC
5	Details of the Nodal Officer of the Programme Division, MoEFCC	
6	Whether the Scheme/ Project has State Component (Yes/No)	YES
7	If the answer to the above Item No. 6 is ‘Yes’, then whether State (s) is (are) on board based on any signed agreement. (a copy of the same to be attached)	Part A: Yes, the scheme/project includes multiple State components, and we have been holding meetings with various states. The state of Uttar Pradesh is already on board, and a formal agreement is expected to be signed very soon. A meeting with West Bengal, Jharkhand and Assam is scheduled soon
B	Objectives of Scheme/ Project (Preferably in bullet points and in not less than 250 words)	Part A: The objectives for the study, aligned with the Conservation Action Plan for River Dolphins in India, are outlined as follows: 1. Capacity building for rescue and rehabilitation of the Ganges River Dolphin (Action points 1.3, 1.6): Strengthening the knowledge, skills, and preparedness of trained veterinary personnel, forest department teams, and local stakeholders, and institutions to ensure rapid and effective response to dolphin strandings, injuries, or distress, including the provision of specialized equipment and structured rehabilitation protocols. 2. Promoting dolphin conservation among citizens and communities (Actions 1.6, 2.2, 2.4, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2): Creating awareness on the ecological significance of the species through community workshops, school programs, media outreach, and cultural events, fostering behavioural change and active participation in

		conservation activities. 3. Promote technological intervention and strengthen fishermen/citizen community networks to reduce net entanglement and mortality (Actions 1.4, 1.7, 3.3, 3.5): Encouraging the adoption of eco-friendly fishing gear, advanced tracking, and early-warning systems, while building strong community-led surveillance and reporting networks to minimise accidental bycatch and mortality incidents. 4. Assessing the impact of river infrastructure and suggesting mitigation measures (Actions 2.1, 2.4, 4.4): Studying the ecological effects of barrages, dredging, and navigation projects on dolphin movement and habitat, followed by recommending practical mitigation strategies to safeguard their survival. 5. Addressing ecological knowledge gaps to inform management actions (Actions 5.1, 5.2, 5.3): Conducting scientific studies on habitat use, prey dynamics, and emerging threats to strengthen evidence-based policy and conservation planning. 6. Securing the health of the aquatic ecosystem for sustainable living and biodiversity conservation (Action 4.1): Implementing pollution control, habitat restoration, and 6. Securing the health to ensure a resilient river ecosystem that supports dolphins and other aquatic species. Part B: The objectives for the study, aligned with the Conservation Action Plan for Marine Dolphins in India, are outlined as follows: Outreach and Capacity Building: 1. Enhance awareness of dolphins, their habitat, ecological role and conservation through education, and art (Action plan Goal no. 4) 2. Establish structured citizen-science frameworks for dolphin monitoring 3. Build capacity and foster inter-agency collaboration of forest departments, navy, coast guard and other identified allied agencies in marine mammal response and ecosystem stewardship (Action plan Goal no. 5) 4. Promote and strengthen sustainable dolphin ecotourism through capacity building and livelihood diversification in coastal communities. Research: 5. Monitor marine dolphins and other marine mammal populations across Indian coast with combination of classic and modern approaches (Action plan Goal no. 1 & 3) 6. Identification and mapping of critical dolphin habitats and movement pathways in India (Action plan Goal no. 2) 7. Threat Characterization and development of Mitigation strategies (Action plan Goal no. 1 & 2)
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C	Project Duration and Year-wise activities (additional columns in the table may be added as per the requirement)	Project Duration – 5 years Part A: Year-wise details of activities in Annexure-1 Part B: Year-wise details of activities in Annexure-1B
D	Project Outlay & Evaluation	Part A: 3297.67 Lakhs (32.97 crores) for 5 years Part B: 2731.6 lakhs (27.31 Cr) for 5 years
8	Year-wise estimated expenditure (additional columns in the table may be added as per the requirement)	Year-wise estimated expenditure details in Part A: Annexure-II Part B: Annexure-IIB
9	Proposed midterm evaluation by Programme Division (additional columns In the table, may be added as per the requirement)	Midterm evaluation
		1 2 3
		Tentative At the end of 1.5 years of project initiation At the end of 3 years of project initiation At the end of 4.5 years of project initiation
10	New or extension/ modification of any existing schemes	New
11	Revised outlay in case of existing scheme/project	NA
12	In case of modification of an Existing scheme/project: The details of expenditure incurred as of the date, along with a copy of UC indicating unutilized funds.	NA
13	Brief note & Justification for seeking financial support from the National Fund (The Programme Division must categorically state the reason why regular budgetary support cannot be obtained for this scheme/project)	PART A: The proposed “Implementation of the Dolphin Conservation Action Plan” is a five-year, multi-state initiative critical to the survival of the endangered Ganges River Dolphin and the health of associated aquatic ecosystems. Its scope, covering 131 districts across nine states, includes specialised rescue and rehabilitation capacity building, advanced technology deployment (pingers, bubble/silt curtains), multi-taxa ecological monitoring, and community-led conservation and livelihood models. These activities are beyond the scope of routine state or central budgetary provisions, which are typically limited to site-specific or short-term actions. Given the national significance of Project Dolphin and the need for uniform protocols, cross-sectoral coordination, and sustained funding, dedicated National Fund support is essential to ensure timely, integrated, and impactful implementation, delivering both ecological and socio- economic benefits at a national scale. PART B: The “Dolphin Conservation Action Plan: Marine” is a five-year, multi-state initiative essential for safeguarding endangered marine dolphins and protecting coastal ecosystems. It includes expert rescue training, advanced technologies for ecological monitoring, and community-led conservation. These efforts exceed routine government

		budgets. To ensure consistent protocols, cross-sector coordination, and lasting impact, dedicated national funding is vital for delivering both ecological and economic benefits across India's coastal regions.
14	Implementing Agency (IA) shall adhere to the Provision of GFR 2017 and the Government Accounting Rules 1990. IA is required to comply with the guidelines letter no. 24(35) PF-II/2012 dated 05th August, 2016 issued by Department of expenditure	The Implementing Agency (WII) undertakes to adhere strictly to the provisions of the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017, the Government Accounting Rules 1990, and the guidelines issued by the Department of Expenditure vide letter no. 24(35) PF-II/2012 dated 05th August 2016, in the receipt, utilisation, accounting, and reporting of project funds.
E	Deliverables	Part A: Deliverables/Outputs/Outcomes of the scheme/ project mentioned in Annexure-III
	Outputs of scheme/project	
	Outcomes of scheme/ project	Part B: Deliverables/Outputs/Outcomes of the scheme/ project mentioned in Annexure-IIIB
F	Deliverables of scheme/ project (including year wise) (additional columns In the table, may be added as per the requirement)	Part A: Year-wise deliverables of projects mentioned in Annexure-IV Year-wise deliverables of projects mentioned in Annexure-IVB
15	Exit protocol of the scheme/project (In not less than 250 words)	Part A: The "Implementation of the Dolphin Conservation Action Plan: Conservation and Recovery of River Dolphins and Their Aquatic Habitats" is designed with a clear transition strategy to ensure the sustainability of outcomes beyond the project period. The exit protocol focuses on embedding capacities, systems, and resources within state agencies, local communities, and partner institutions to maintain and scale conservation actions without continued dependence on project funds. • By the project's conclusion, all participating State Forest Departments will have trained and certified personnel, including veterinarians, frontline staff, and community volunteers, equipped with standardised protocols for dolphin rescue, rehabilitation, habitat monitoring, and community engagement. Specialised equipment (pingers, inflatable boats, rescue kits, monitoring devices, and mobile app systems) will be handed over to state departments and local committees with appropriate training for upkeep and use. • Model conservation and ecotourism sites developed under the project will be managed by empowered village-level committees (e.g., Jalmitra Ecotourism Committees), with ongoing support from State Forest Departments and revenue generation through ecotourism, eco-labelling of dolphin-friendly fish, and convergence with schemes like IDWH, APR, and CSR initiatives. • The citizen science network, mobile app-based data

		reporting systems, and ecological monitoring protocols will be institutionalised within state monitoring frameworks, ensuring continued flow of data for decision-making. Annual review and refresher training modules will be made available to state agencies to maintain skill levels. • To address ongoing research and monitoring needs, long-term collaborations will be formalised with academic institutions, NGOs, and government research bodies. Policy-relevant findings, technical manuals, and awareness materials developed during the project will be archived with MoEFCC, State Forest Departments, and other stakeholders for replication. In this way, the project will exit with strengthened institutional capacity, community ownership, sustainable livelihood mechanisms, and embedded monitoring frameworks, ensuring that conservation gains for the Ganges River Dolphin and its habitat are sustained and expanded beyond the life of the project. Part B: The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), in collaboration with the respective State Forest Departments and allied agencies, will prepare and submit comprehensive final reports detailing all outreach activities, research findings, capacity-building efforts, and budget utilization. All datasets—including visual, acoustic, genetic, and GIS-based assessments—will be archived and made accessible to relevant stakeholders to support future conservation planning. All field equipment procured under the project, such as drones, acoustic recorders, cameras, and telemetry devices, will be formally handed over to the respective Forest Departments. Prior to handover, training sessions will be conducted to ensure operational continuity and proper maintenance. Final stakeholder debriefings will be organized to disseminate key findings, share lessons learned, and provide policy recommendations to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and state-level authorities. To ensure long-term sustainability, citizen-science platforms such as the Dolphin Sighting App and Beach Survey Clubs will be institutionalized, and partnerships for dolphin ecotourism and community engagement will be formalized. A final outreach campaign—including digital media, school programs, and cultural events—will be launched to celebrate the project’s achievements and reinforce public stewardship. Financial closure will be undertaken with the submission of audited statements and reconciliation of accounts for both WII and Forest Department allocations. This exit protocol is designed to uphold transparency, foster continued conservation efforts, and embed marine dolphin protection within national and regional frameworks.
16	Extension strategy (if any) (In not less than 250 words)	Part A: The proposed project is planned for a duration of five years.

		However, recognising the dynamic nature of field conditions, conservation priorities, and ecological responses, provision is kept for seeking an extension, if warranted, to ensure consolidation and sustainability of outcomes. A structured monitoring and evaluation framework will be implemented from the outset, with annual progress reviews and a detailed mid- term assessment. This will track biological indicators (species population trends, habitat quality, threat reduction), socio-economic indicators (community participation, livelihood linkages), and institutional indicators (capacity building, policy integration). If these evaluations indicate that critical objectives require additional time to be fully achieved, or that scaling of successful interventions can yield substantial long-term benefits, the Implementing Agency may seek either a no-cost extension (utilising unspent funds within an extended timeline) or a costed extension, depending on the resource requirements. The no-cost extension option will be prioritised where feasible to ensure efficient utilisation of sanctioned funds without additional financial burden. Part B: A no-cost extension may be required to ensure the effective completion and consolidation of key activities under the Marine Dolphin Conservation Action Plan. Given the vast geographic expanse of the project—covering diverse coastal and island ecosystems—and the seasonal variability in marine mammal presence, several field surveys and data validation exercises remain pending. Additionally, the dynamic nature of outreach and capacity-building efforts, which have evolved in response to local engagement and inter-agency collaboration, necessitates extended timelines for institutional embedding and impact assessment. The proposed no-cost extension will utilize existing personnel, equipment, and budgetary allocations without requesting additional financial support. Unspent funds within approved heads will be reallocated to complete pending activities, finalize publications, and strengthen stakeholder networks. Continued collaboration with Forest Departments, Coast Guard, Navy, and local institutions will be leveraged to maintain field operations and outreach momentum. This extension will enable the project to deliver a robust national dataset on marine dolphin populations, finalize conservation recommendations, and ensure that outreach and capacity-building efforts are sustainably integrated into regional frameworks. The strategy aligns with the overarching goals of Project Dolphin and supports India’s commitments under international biodiversity conventions.
G	Recommendation of the Program Division	The Wildlife Division of the MoEF&CC has prepared the Project on "Implementation of the Dolphin Conservation Action Plan: Conservation and Recovery of River Dolphins and Their Aquatic Habitats" and seeking financial support from the National Fund as per the section 5 (b) (ii) of the CAF Act 2016. The Wildlife Division will function as Program

		Division for the project which will be implemented through Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun which act an Implementing Agency and monitor the physical and financial progress of the project as required under CAF Act 2016 and CAF Rules 2018 and submit the quarterly progress report and annual progress report to National CAMPA. The Program Division will ensure forwarding of Utilization Certificate as and when required and demand for the funds, duly filled with the relevant checklist.
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Recommendation of Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the proposal in its 37th meeting for obtaining approval of Governing Body.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(ii) PROPOSAL FOR ECOLOGICAL NICHE MODELING OF IMPORTANT FOREST INSECTS IN UTTARAKHAND: UNDERSTANDING DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DRIVERS-ICFRE

Name of Scheme	Ecological Niche Modeling of Important Forest Insects in Uttarakhand: Understanding Distribution Patterns and Environmental Drivers-ICFRE			
Implementing Agency	ICFRE, Dehradun			
Project Duration/Period	3 years			
Project Outlay	Rs. 70.00 lakhs			
	(Rs. In lakhs)			
	Year	1	2	3
	Estimated Expenditure	28.00	23.00	19.00
Programme Division	RT Division, MoEFCC			
Objectives of the Project a) To identify the ecological niches of important forest insects in Uttarakhand by integrating spatial and environmental data. b) To investigate the distribution patterns of key insects across Uttarakhand. c) To analyse the environmental drivers influencing the presence and abundance of important insects in Uttarakhand. d) To assess the potential impact of climate change on the ecological niches and distribution patterns of key forest insects in Uttarakhand. e) To identify areas of conservation priority for beneficial insects i.e., pollinators and indicators species. f) To identify areas at high risk of infestation by insect that can adversely affect the trees, prioritize targeted management strategies for them and give recommendations along with climate change adaptation strategies.				
Project Outcomes The research will generate spatially explicit maps of distribution of key insects, identifying areas of high risk of insects that can adversely affect the trees and of pollinators of importance in forest areas of Uttarakhand. The results will be used to inform the development of targeted insect management strategies and conservation plans for Uttarakhand's forest ecosystems by stakeholders. Extension materials will be developed in the form of Book, e-files which will be uploaded in websites and will be provided to the stakeholders (Forest department, Research Institutes, NGOs, Universities etc.)				
Brief Justification of the project/scheme: Uttarakhand's unique and ecologically diverse forest ecosystems are significantly influenced by insect communities, encompassing both economically damaging insects and ecologically vital pollinators. Understanding the spatial distribution and environmental drivers of these insect groups is crucial for effective forest management, conservation, and sustainable resource utilization. However, existing ecological niche modeling (ENM) studies often lack the regional specificity necessary to capture the fine-scale variations in insect distribution within Uttarakhand's complex landscape. This research directly addresses this gap by conducting a comprehensive Ecological Niche modeling study of key forest insects in the region. Presently the ICFRE-Forest Research Institute or Zoological Survey of India do not have enough budget/resources to carry of field-based research projects of this scale on their own besides this project needs training component for which project staff (3no.) is required that will be training by IIRS, Dehradun.				

Recommendation of Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the proposal in its 37th meeting for obtaining approval of Governing Body.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(iii) DECIPHERING SALINITY RESPONSES AND PHYTOREMEDIATION POTENTIAL OF SOME HALOPHYTIC SPECIES OF INDIAN ARID REGION

Name of Scheme	Deciphering salinity responses and phytoremediation potential of some halophytic species of Indian arid region																																																																																																																																																															
Implementing Agency	ICFRE-AFRI, Jodhpur BSI, Arid Zone Regional Centre, Jodhpur																																																																																																																																																															
Project Duration/Period	5 years																																																																																																																																																															
Project Outlay	Rs. 99,68,700/-																																																																																																																																																															
Year wise estimate	ICFRE-AFRI Budget Estimates: Rs. 85.198 lakh <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">S.No</th><th colspan="2" rowspan="2">Budget heads</th><th colspan="5">Amount required/year (Rs. In Lakh)</th><th rowspan="2">Total (Rs.in lakh)</th></tr> <tr> <th>1st Year</th><th>2nd Year</th><th>3rd Year</th><th>4th Year</th><th>5th Year</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">1</td><td rowspan="2">Fellowship</td><td>JPF (01</td><td>-</td><td>3.46</td><td>3.46</td><td>4.05</td><td>2.03</td><td>13.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>FA (01)</td><td>-</td><td>2.88</td><td>2.88</td><td>2.88</td><td>-</td><td>8.64</td></tr> <tr> <td>2.</td><td colspan="2">Travel (including TA/DA, fuel etc.)</td><td>2.50</td><td>2.50</td><td>2.50</td><td>1.50</td><td>1.00</td><td>10.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>3.</td><td colspan="2">Materials and supplies (consumables, glassware and chemicals)</td><td>5.00</td><td>5.00</td><td>6.00</td><td>4.00</td><td>2.00</td><td>22.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>4.</td><td colspan="2">Field Research Expense (FRE)</td><td>2.50</td><td>3.50</td><td>3.50</td><td>3.00</td><td>1.00</td><td>13.50</td></tr> <tr> <td>5.</td><td colspan="2">Capital (Equipment)</td><td>9.00</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>9.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>6.</td><td colspan="2">Others: Setting up of hydroponics facility, lab maintenance and upgradation</td><td>2.00</td><td>1.00</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>7.</td><td colspan="2">Semi-skilled labour for 26 days a month @ ₹ 482/day</td><td>0.25</td><td>0.50</td><td>0.50</td><td>0.50</td><td>0.25</td><td>2.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>8.</td><td colspan="2">Contingency (5%) of recurring)</td><td>1.063</td><td>0.942</td><td>0.942</td><td>0.797</td><td>0.314</td><td>4.057</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td colspan="2">Total</td><td>22.313</td><td>19.782</td><td>19.782</td><td>16.727</td><td>6.594</td><td>85.197</td></tr> </tbody> </table> BSI, Jodhpur Budget Estimates: Rs. 14.49 lakh <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">S.no</th><th colspan="2" rowspan="2">Budget heads</th><th colspan="5">Amount required/year (Rs. In Lakh)</th><th rowspan="2">Total (Rs.in lakh)</th></tr> <tr> <th>1st Year</th><th>2nd Year</th><th>3rd Year</th><th>4th Year</th><th>5th Year</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td><td colspan="2">Travel (including TA/DA, fuel etc.)</td><td>3.00</td><td>3.30</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>6.30</td></tr> <tr> <td>2.</td><td colspan="2">Materials and supplies (consumables, glassware and chemicals)</td><td>1.00</td><td>1.00</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>3.</td><td colspan="2">Field Research Expense (FRE)</td><td>1.00</td><td>1.00</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>4.</td><td colspan="2">Capital (Equipment)</td><td>3.50</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3.50</td></tr> </tbody> </table>								S.No	Budget heads		Amount required/year (Rs. In Lakh)					Total (Rs.in lakh)	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year	5 th Year	1	Fellowship	JPF (01	-	3.46	3.46	4.05	2.03	13.00	FA (01)	-	2.88	2.88	2.88	-	8.64	2.	Travel (including TA/DA, fuel etc.)		2.50	2.50	2.50	1.50	1.00	10.00	3.	Materials and supplies (consumables, glassware and chemicals)		5.00	5.00	6.00	4.00	2.00	22.00	4.	Field Research Expense (FRE)		2.50	3.50	3.50	3.00	1.00	13.50	5.	Capital (Equipment)		9.00	-	-	-	-	9.00	6.	Others: Setting up of hydroponics facility, lab maintenance and upgradation		2.00	1.00	-	-	-	3.00	7.	Semi-skilled labour for 26 days a month @ ₹ 482/day		0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.25	2.00	8.	Contingency (5%) of recurring)		1.063	0.942	0.942	0.797	0.314	4.057		Total		22.313	19.782	19.782	16.727	6.594	85.197	S.no	Budget heads		Amount required/year (Rs. In Lakh)					Total (Rs.in lakh)	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year	5 th Year	1.	Travel (including TA/DA, fuel etc.)		3.00	3.30	-	-	-	6.30	2.	Materials and supplies (consumables, glassware and chemicals)		1.00	1.00	-	-	-	2.00	3.	Field Research Expense (FRE)		1.00	1.00	-	-	-	2.00	4.	Capital (Equipment)		3.50	-	-	-	-	3.50
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	5.	Contingency (5%) of recurring)	0.425	0.265	-	-	-	0.69
		Total	8.925	5.565	-	-	-	14.49
Programme Division	Research and Training (RT) Division, MoEF&CC							
Objectives of the Project:								
Short term								
ICFRE-AFRI, Jodhpur								
1. To collect plant material and observe and record ecological/soil conditions at the sites of growth of <i>S. persica</i> and <i>Tamarix</i> species (<i>T. aphylla</i>, <i>T. dioica</i>, <i>T. troupii</i>, and <i>T. ericoides</i>) 2. To study salt tolerance responses of the selected species by recording growth and morphological/development, and physiological and biochemical parameters at different salt concentrations. 3. To do comparative transcriptomics for the most tolerant and least tolerant species. 4. To optimize seed and/or vegetative propagation protocols for <i>S. persica</i>, and <i>T. aphylla</i>. 5. To study the phytoremediation potential of <i>Tamarix</i> species.								
BSI, Arid Zone Regional Centre, Jodhpur								
1. Survey, collection and identification of species for both genus in the area as in the literatures as well as from the field in Rajasthan. 2. Status, distribution and GIS mapping of the targeted species of the study area with the help of mapping Software. 3. Assessment of these species (regionally/globally) according to IUCN Red List Guideline (ver. 14, 2019) and finalizing the category of species according to IUCN red list guideline (ver. 14, 2019).								
Long Term								
To understand the distribution of <i>S. persica</i> and <i>Tamarix</i> species and to decipher the differential salinity tolerance by drawing a comparative overview for these halophytic species as well as to elucidate phytoremediation potential of <i>Tamarix</i> species for future recommendation of suitable species that can be grown in abiotically-challenged ecosystems depending on the site-conditions								
Deliverables:								
1. Status, distribution, phytosociological assessment and GIS mapping of selected species. 2. Deciphering salinity tolerance levels and salinity responses of the selected species by recording the germination and growth response, physiological and biochemical changes. 3. Comparative evaluation of salt tolerance potential of the selected halophytic species. 4. Deciphering the comparative transcriptomic changes that cause the differential salt tolerance in the most and least tolerant species to make repository of important salt tolerance genes for future studies. 5. Optimization of propagation of <i>Salvadora persica</i>, and <i>Tamarix aphylla</i>. 6. Deciphering suitable indigenous species for phytoremediation of contaminated sites.								

Recommendation of Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the proposal in its 38th meeting for obtaining approval of Governing Body.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(iv) PROJECT SNOW LEOPARD: POPULATION ASSESSMENT, CONSERVATION AND MONITORING OF SNOW LEOPARDS IN INDIA

Name of Scheme	Project Snow Leopard: Population Assessment, Conservation and Monitoring of Snow Leopards in India										
Implementing Agency	Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun										
Project Duration/ Period	5 years										
Project Outlay	Rs. 762,303,000/-										
Year wise estimate	Head	1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year		4th Year		5th Year	
		WII	FD	WII	FD	WII	FD	WII	FD	WII	FD
	PMU	89.54	0	89.54	0	90.79	0	90.79	0	92.07	0
	Population Assessment of Snow Leopards, Co-predators & Prey	313.06	200	313.06	200	336.06	200	336.06	0	336.06	0
	Equipment's and Field Logistics	621.0	0	190.0	0	90.0	0	90.0	0	35.0	0
	Mitigation of negative impacts of feral dogs on wildlife in identified priority areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
	Setting of plastic re-cycling units at community level on a pilot basis for implementation and demonstration	0	250	0	250	0	250	0	250	0	250
	Workshops for capacity building and ToT for the implementation of SPAI 2.0 6 States and 2 workshops on each State	180	0	180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Printing of Reports and other necessary material	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0
	Identification of degraded grazing lands and forest areas for assisted natural regeneration and thereby, habitat restoration and protection of critical areas and reducing/reviving rangelands	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	200	0	200

	Support herders' livelihoods and conserve wild ungulates to reduce disease and pasture infectivity	0	250	0	250	0	250	0	250	0	250	
	Miscellaneous	10	20	10	20	10	20	10	20	10	20	
	Grand Total	1233.60	720.00	802.60	720.00	546.85	920.00	546.85	820.00	493.13	820.00	
Programme Division	Wildlife Division, MoEF&CC											
Objectives of the Project:												
1. Approve implementation of a nationally standardized, statistically robust monitoring framework for snow leopards, sympatric carnivores, and key prey using SECR, genetic, and occupancy approaches, including assessment of feral/free-ranging dog impacts and climate-change-based habitat modelling to guide conservation prioritization. 2. Endorse landscape-level habitat assessment and management measures, including mapping of critical habitats, identification of ecological corridors and gene-flow linkages, evaluation of feral dog overlap risk zones, and targeted restoration of degraded priority areas through community participation. 3. Adopt and institutionalize a long-term ecological monitoring protocol, with annual monitoring and four-year population assessment cycles aligned with national wildlife monitoring frameworks. 4. Authorize a structured human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategy, comprising hotspot mapping, establishment of a real-time monitoring and response mechanism, and scaling of integrated mitigation interventions combining improved husbandry, livestock protection, technology, and incentive-based approaches. 5. Support capacity building and community stewardship initiatives, including training of frontline staff, defence forces, and local communities, promotion of sustainable pastoral practices and wild ungulate conservation, and piloting of community-led circular-economy models to reduce plastic pollution in high-altitude ecosystems.												
Outcomes:												
Ecological Outcomes												
Improved accuracy and reliability of national snow leopard population assessments Strengthened long-term monitoring for mountain carnivores and prey Secured ecological corridors and climate-refugia for snow leopards Reduced feral dog pressure on wildlife and ecosystems Restored habitats and improved alpine pasture health												
Socio-Environmental Outcomes												
Significant reduction in human-snow leopard conflict incidents Enhanced frontline capacity for wildlife monitoring and rapid response Increased community participation and stewardship in conservation Better disease management at livestock-wild ungulate interface Improved waste-management and environment cleanliness in high-altitude villages												
Policy & Institutional Outcomes												
Significant reduction in human-snow leopard conflict incidents Enhanced frontline capacity for wildlife monitoring and rapid response Increased community participation and stewardship in conservation Better disease management at livestock-wild ungulate interface Improved waste-management and environment cleanliness in high-altitude villages												
Deliverables:												
Year 1												

- Phase-I population estimation initiated for snow leopards, co-predators, and prey species
- Phase-I assessment of feral dog population initiated
- Baseline conflict assessment initiated across snow leopard range
- Capacity development and sensitization programmes initiated for key government staff and stakeholders
- Assessment of climate change impacts at pilot sites initiated
- Livelihood and wild ungulate conservation activities initiated
- Identification of degraded grazing lands and forest areas for restoration initiated
- Pilot implementation of community-level plastic recycling units
- Training of field staff for Project Snow Leopard and SPAI 2.0 initiated

Year 2

- Phase-II population estimation for snow leopards, co-predators, and prey species completed
- Phase-II feral dog population assessment completed
- Continued assessment of conflict zones and validation
- Continued capacity development programmes across snow leopard landscapes
- Pilot climate monitoring continued and protocols standardized
- Livelihood and wild ungulate conservation initiatives expanded
- Habitat restoration activities ongoing at identified sites
- Plastic recycling units expanded at additional community sites
- SPAI-based smart patrolling and monitoring implemented

Year 3

- Phase-III population estimation completed for snow leopards, co-predators, and prey species
- Final phase of feral dog population assessment completed
- Identify high dog–wildlife interface areas for targeted action
- Develop mitigation measures for human–wildlife conflict
- Climate change impact assessment consolidated
- Livelihood and conservation interventions continued
- Habitat restoration efforts expanded
- Large scale implementation of SPAI-based monitoring
- Continued capacity development and community support

Year 4

- Publication of Snow Leopard Population Status Report in India
- Publication of Co-predators and Prey Status Reports
- Report on conflict hotspots and mitigation recommendations
- Identification and prioritization of critical snow leopard habitats completed
- High dog–wildlife interface zones documented and mitigation suggestions finalized
- Restoration outcomes reviewed and improved interventions documented
- Plastic recycling model refined and scaled
- Advanced capacity building and annual monitoring review completed

Year 5

- Long-term snow leopard monitoring framework institutionalized
- Final conflict mitigation validation and scalable model documented
- Recommendations and guidelines for feral dog population management finalized
- Community livelihood and conservation success stories documented
- Plastic recycling units scaled and sustainability model adopted
- Final project completion report and national dissemination workshop
- Final publication and handover of Snow Leopard, Co-predator, and Climate reports
- Exit plan and sustainability roadmap executed

Recommendation of Executive Committee: The Executive Committee in its 38th meeting recommended the proposal for an outlay of **Rs. 76.23 crore** and directed to place the proposal for obtaining approval of Governing Body.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(v) APPROVAL OF REVISED OUTLAY AND EXTENSION OF MANGROVE INITIATIVE FOR SHORELINE HABITATS & TANGIBLE INCOME (MISHTI) PROGRAMME

Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)” was announced in para 85 of the Union Budget FY 2023-24 to promote and conserve mangroves as unique, natural eco-system having very high biological productivity and carbon sequestration potential, besides working as bio-shield. The “Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)” was launched on 5th June 2023 to restore and promote mangroves as unique, natural eco-system and for preserving and enhancing the sustainability of the coastal habitats. The objective of MISHTI is to “restore mangrove forests” by undertaking mangrove reforestation/ afforestation measures along the coast of India. CAMPA is supporting restoration, conservation and management of mangroves across the Country by providing the National Funds to the forest departments of coastal/shoreline States and Union Territories.

2. CAMPA had kept a provision for **Rs. 825 crores** under MISHTI programme for restoration of 540 sq. km (54,016 Ha) degraded mangrove forests in nine (9) coastal States (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal) and four (4) UTs (Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands), which was recommended by Executive Committee of National Authority in its 22nd meeting held on 31.03.2023, 18.04.2023 and 24.04.2023.

3. In 24th meeting of Executive Committee of National Authority has recommended **Rs. 100 crores** initially for implementation of MISHTI programme, a five-year (i.e. FY 2023-24 to 2028-29) conservation programme for these coastal States and Union Territories. Against this initial amount, a modest physical target of **3,836 Ha.** was kept for restoration.

4. After the recommendation of EC, the proposal was approved by the Governing Body of National Authority in its 4th meeting held on 29th December, 2023 held under the chairmanship of HMEF&CC. Out of this initial amount of **Rs.100 crore**, an amount of **Rs. 88.40 crores** has been released to five States and one UT namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Odisha, West Bengal and Puducherry for carrying out approved activities as yet.

5. Initially, the following plan was agreed upon and communicated vide the OM number NA-1/28/2024-NA dated 9th December 2024.

Presently, the core activities and supporting activities of Mission MISHTI include:

Category	Year	Type of Activities
Core Activity	Year-1	- Mapping and delineation of target intervention areas. - Preparation of inventory based on scientific assessment of topography, hydrology etc. - Nursery development
	Year-2	Mangrove plantation
	Year-3	Stabilization
	Year-4	Stabilization and exit
	Year-5	Exit
Support Activities	Year 1-5	- Livelihood Diversification - Capacity Building - Research and Development - Publicity, Media and Outreach - Monitoring and Evaluation - Ecotourism with the help of SHGs

Table 1: State wise potential Area proposed to be taken under MISHTI

(Area in ha)

S. No	State	Degraded & Gap	Aquaculture & Salt	Mudflat	Replacement (in ha.)	Plantation/ Enrichment of mangrove vegetation/ Rehabilitation of degraded mangroves (in ha.)	Percent of area allocated (%)
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1	Gujarat	20502	339	4000	1000	25841	47.84
2	Daman & Diu	0	0	5	0	5	0.01
3	Maharashtra	4316	32	800	10	5158	9.55
4	Goa	565	0	5	0	570	1.05
5	Karnataka	168	0	5	5	178	0.33
6	Kerala	122	0	1	10	133	0.25
7	Tamil Nadu	3906	165	200	500	4771	8.83
8	Puducherry	64	0	5	5	74	0.14
9	Andhra Pradesh	4197	780	200	750	5927	10.98
10	Odisha	2242	120	1600	500	4462	8.27
11	West Bengal	3531	66	1500	100	5197	9.62
12	Andaman & Nicobar Is.	0	0	1700	0	1700	3.15
13	Lakshadweep	530	0	200	0	0	0.05
	Total	39613	1502	10021	2880	54016	100

6. Alongside enrichment and plantation of mangroves in degraded or gap areas and aquaculture, emphasis would be placed on conserving and enhancing existing salt-tolerant and other coastal vegetation. A landscape-based, science-driven approach, adopting a Multi-Ecosystem Framework that recognises mangroves as part of a coastal mosaic including seaweeds (enhancing carbon sequestration, improving water quality as biological filters and providing fish habitat), sand dunes and dune plantations (natural barriers against storm surges and wind, aiding shoreline stabilisation), salt marshes (flood buffering and biodiversity support), riparian vegetation (riverbank stabilisation and reduced sediment inflow) and layered coastal plantations (1–2 rows as windbreaks and to reduce saltwater intrusion). The remaining funds of the scheme should prioritise cohesive coastal planning with proper feasibility studies, GIS mapping and remote sensing, field ecological assessments to identify priority restoration zones, and targeted restoration across dunes, salt marshes, mudflats, seagrass and seaweed systems and layered plantations. State-level coastal forest landscape plans must be mandated to integrate multiple ecosystems and ensure inter-departmental coordination (Forests, Wetlands, Irrigation & Waterways, P&RD, District Administration, Disaster Management). Support should be provided for research on ecosystem synergies (for example mangrove–salt marsh interactions) with DST/DBT/MoES and for a monitoring framework with measurable indicators (erosion reduction, biodiversity gains, livelihood improvements). Treating mangroves as one vital element within this broader coastal landscape strategy will enable MISHTI to build a holistic, climate-resilient coastal shield that safeguards people and ecosystems. Necessary tweaking of the guidelines will be done.

7. A total amount of **Rs. 825 crores** was earmarked for the MISHTI programme under the CAMPA fund. Out of this, **Rs. 100 crores** was initially approved by the Governing Body of the National Authority in its 4th meeting held on 29th December 2023. The Executive Committee of National Authority in its 38th meeting recommended the extension of the proposal for period of **three years (till 2029)** with an additional outlay of **Rs. 500 crore**. For which the allocation will be done based on the proportion of integrated mangrove area in those entities as stated in Table 2. The estimated fund allocation till 2029 is proposed as below in Table 2.

Table: 2: Estimation of Fund Proposed to be Allocated

Category	Activity	Total (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3
Core Activities (to be carried out by the States & UTs)	Mapping & Demarcation of Target Intervention Areas (Preparation of Inventory based on Topography, Hydrology etc.)	60
	Nursery Development	80
	Mangrove Plantation, Sand dunes & dune plantation, Sea weeds, Salt marshes, Riparian vegetation, Layered coastal plantation	200
	Stabilization & Exit	60

Core Subtotal		400 (80%)
Support Activities	Livelihood Diversification & Contingency Capacity Building (to be carried out by the States &UTs only)	60
	Research, Media & Outreach (could be carried out by the States &UTs and the National Authority)	20
	Ecotourism with help of SHGs (to be carried out by the States &UTs only)	7
	Strengthen and institutionalize community-led stewardship models (to be carried out by the States &UTs only)	5
	Monitoring & Evaluation (could be carried out by the States &UTs and the National Authority)	3
	Facilitate structured inter-state knowledge exchange conferences & workshops and international exposure visits (by the National Authority only)	5
Support Subtotal		100 (20%)
Total		500

Recommendation of Executive Committee: The Executive Committee in its 38th meeting recommended the extension of the proposal for period of **three years (till 2029)** with an additional outlay of **Rs. 500 crores** for implementation of MISHTI with a landscape approach as elaborated in the above paragraph #6 of this agenda item. This enhanced outlay must be placed before the Governing Body for approval.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(vi) CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN FOR THE WILD WATER BUFFALO (*BUBALUS ARNEE*): A COMPREHENSIVE PAN-INDIA APPROACH

Sl. No.	Proforma for submission of Scheme/Project	
A	Background	Details
1	Name of Scheme/Project:	Conservation action plan for the wild Water Buffalo (<i>Bubalus arnee</i>): A comprehensive pan-India approach
2	Name of the implementing agency	Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
3	Details of the Nodal Officer of the Implementing Agency/ Institute	Dr. Gobind Sagar Bhardwaj, IFS Director, Wildlife Institute of India Email: dwii@wii.gov.in Concerned faculty: Dr. Samrat Mondol, Scientist F Department of Animal Ecology and Conservation Biology Wildlife Institute of India Email: samrat@wii.gov.in
4	Name of the Program Division of the MoEF&CC	Wildlife Division, MoEF&CC
5	Details of the Nodal Officer of the Programme Division, MoEF&CC	Dr. Sunil Sharma Joint Director (Wildlife) Email: jd-wl@nic.in
6	Whether the Scheme/ Project has State Component (Yes/No)	Yes
7	If the answer to the above Item No. 6 is 'Yes', then whether State (s) is (are) on board based on any signed agreement. (a copy of the same to be attached)	The project was conceptualised after a stakeholder meeting under the chairmanship of the Additional Director General of Forest (Wildlife) in February 2026, where all concerned states agreed towards this collaborative project. The minute of the meeting is enclosed herewith (Annexure I) Subsequently, the proposal was presented at the 90 th SC-NBWL meeting under the chairmanship of the HMoEF&CC, and approval was accorded for this collaborative effort. The minute of the meeting is enclosed herewith (Annexure II) All concerned states (Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh) are on board for this collaborative proposal.
B	Objectives of Scheme/ Project (Preferably in bullet points and in not less than 250 words)	This Conservation Action Plan aims to secure the long-term survival and protection of wild buffalo populations in their current habitats, while also managing their populations and habitats across all Indian states where the species occurs. The specific objectives of this project can be grouped into three broad activities:

		a) Detailed research and monitoring of the extant and reintroduced wild buffalo populations. This part will include the following aspects: - Assessment of the genetic purity of existing wild buffalo populations - Evaluate genetic variations across all extant populations for selection of best founder animals for translocations - Conduct population estimates for the species across major populations in northeast and central India - Assessment of habitat quality by generating primary habitat data across the species' range - Assessment of population health (genetic variation, physiological and reproductive status, diet) using multidisciplinary approaches - Conduct disease risk assessment across the wildlife-livestock interface - Develop a standard population monitoring approach for long-term use by the State forest departments b) Facilitation of inter-state coordination in species recovery and management. This will include the following: - Provide technical support in the conservation breeding efforts taken up by the concerned state forest departments - Provide technical support in the reintroduction efforts implemented by the states - Collaborate with the states in developing landscape-scale management plans for wild buffalo conservation - Support states in feasibility studies towards wild buffalo reintroduction process c) To enhance stakeholders' capacity for effective wild buffalo conservation efforts. The following aspects will be focused: - Translocation and reintroduction efforts - Conservation breeding efforts - Population and habitat monitoring efforts - Veterinary capacity building - Conflict management
C	Project Duration and Year-wise activities (additional columns in the table may be added as per the	Project Duration – 5 years Year-wise activity plan in Annexure III

	requirement)							
D	Project Outlay & Evaluation	Total budget requirements: 8748.132 lakhs (5-year period) Part A: WII Component (Rs. 1408.132 Lakhs) Part B: Five State Forest Department Component (7340 lakhs)						
8	Year-wise estimated expenditure (additional columns in the table may be added as per the requirement)	Year-wise estimated expenditure details in Annexure IV.						
9	Proposed midterm evaluation by Programme Division (additional columns In the table, may be added as per the requirement)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Midterm evaluation</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tentative</td><td>March 2028</td><td>March 2030</td></tr> </table>	Midterm evaluation	1	2	Tentative	March 2028	March 2030
Midterm evaluation	1	2						
Tentative	March 2028	March 2030						
10	New or extension/ modification of any existing schemes	New						
11	Revised outlay in case of existing scheme/project	NA						
12	In case of modification of an Existing scheme/project: The details of expenditure incurred as of the date, along with a copy of UC indicating unutilized funds.	NA						
13	Brief note & Justification for seeking financial support from the National Fund (The Programme Division must categorically state the reason why regular budgetary support cannot be obtained for this scheme/project)	The wild water buffalo (<i>Bubalus arnee</i>), commonly known as the wild buffalo, is among the largest and most endangered species within the Bovidae family native to the Indian subcontinent. Once widespread across Europe, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, their current distribution is mostly limited to India, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, Cambodia, and Myanmar. They are now regionally extinct in countries such as Bangladesh, Indonesia, peninsular Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Sumatra, Java, and Borneo. With fewer than 4,000 individuals globally (over 2,500 mature individuals), the species is facing a declining population trend and is classified as 'Endangered' by the IUCN, listed in Appendix I of CITES, and protected under 'Schedule I' of India's Wildlife Protection Act (1972). As India's third-largest terrestrial mammal, the species has experienced a sharp decline in recent decades due to human activities. The species' long-term survival is threatened by habitat loss and degradation, hunting, disease transmission from livestock, and hybridisation with domestic						

		buffaloes. The main obstacles to their recovery include fragmented populations and the risk of hybridisation with sympatric domestic buffaloes. Wild buffalo populations are declining across the species distribution, demanding urgent conservation efforts and funding. Habitat destruction is the main threat, making rigorous monitoring and protection crucial, along with strict measures to avoid hybridisation with domestic buffalo. Management plans should address threats like flooding, erosion, invasive species, and wetland damage. Recognising the species as critically endangered, emphasising scientific supervision, and implementing recovery actions such as reintroduction, conservation breeding, and population boosting are vital for their survival. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) of India is prioritising the wild buffalo population and has instructed all relevant states to implement measures to boost the numbers and restore the species to its historic range. The key states involved are Assam (donor state) and Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh (recipient states). Support and approval for translocations have been granted at various points. In February 2026, a meeting chaired by the Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife) and Director, Wildlife Preservation, MoEF&CC, was held with representatives from all concerned states to review the status of the species and the challenges. Following detailed discussions, the ADG(WL) recommended creating a comprehensive conservation action plan for wild buffalo. The MoEF&CC subsequently directed the Wildlife Institute of India to present a proposal to the Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife (chaired by the Hon’ble Minister). The SC-NBWL suggested to develop a collaborative National Conservation Action Plan, with WII leading and submitting it for funding from CAMPA. This collaborative plan will include all concerned states to ensure effective species conservation efforts. As per the directions of the MoEF&CC ad SC-NBWL this proposal is being submitted for funding support from CAMPA.								
14	Implementing Agency (IA) shall adhere to the Provision of GFR 2017 and the Government Accounting Rules 1990. IA is required to comply with the guidelines letter no. 24(35) PF-II/2012 dated 05 th August, 2016 issued by Department of expenditure	The Implementing Agency (WII) undertakes to adhere strictly to the provisions of the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017, the Government Accounting Rules 1990, and the guidelines issued by the Department of Expenditure vide letter no. 24(35) PF-II/2012 dated 05th August 2016, in the receipt, utilisation, accounting, and reporting of project funds. The concerned states will also strictly adhere to the provisions of the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017, the Government Accounting Rules 1990, and the guidelines issued by the Department of Expenditure vide letter no. 24(35) PF-II/2012 dated 05th August 2016, in the receipt, utilisation, accounting, and reporting of project funds.								
E	<table><tr><td>Deliverables</td><td>a) Assessment of genetic purity of the existing wild buffalo populations</td></tr><tr><td>Outputs of scheme/project</td><td>b) Evaluating genetic variation and inbreeding status of the species</td></tr><tr><td>Outcomes of scheme/ project</td><td>c) Suitable population estimation approach for the species</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>d) Identification of major habitats, their composition and structure, identification of major food plants and invasive species.</td></tr></table>	Deliverables	a) Assessment of genetic purity of the existing wild buffalo populations	Outputs of scheme/project	b) Evaluating genetic variation and inbreeding status of the species	Outcomes of scheme/ project	c) Suitable population estimation approach for the species		d) Identification of major habitats, their composition and structure, identification of major food plants and invasive species.	
Deliverables	a) Assessment of genetic purity of the existing wild buffalo populations									
Outputs of scheme/project	b) Evaluating genetic variation and inbreeding status of the species									
Outcomes of scheme/ project	c) Suitable population estimation approach for the species									
	d) Identification of major habitats, their composition and structure, identification of major food plants and invasive species.									

		e) Selection of priority grassland habitats for the species f) Assessment of physiological, nutritional and reproductive status of the wild and captive populations g) Identification of suitable founder animals for translocations and conservation breeding programs h) Assessment of disease risks in the populations i) Standard population monitoring protocol for the states j) Capacity building efforts k) Community engagement towards species recovery Proposed Outcomes: i. Improved scientific understanding of wild buffalo genetics, population status and habitat requirements. ii. Standardized monitoring, disease surveillance and population estimation systems established across range States. iii. Priority habitats identified and strengthened through targeted restoration and management interventions. iv. Enhanced conservation breeding, translocation and population recovery planning through identification of suitable founder stock. v. Strengthened technical capacity of field agencies and institutions for long-term species conservation. vi. Increased community participation and coordinated conservation efforts leading to improved long-term survival of wild buffalo populations.
F	Deliverables of scheme/ project (including year wise) (additional columns In the table, may be added as per the requirement)	Year-wise deliverables of the project in Annexure III
15	Exit protocol of the scheme/project (In not less than 250 words)	For long-term sustainability and utility of the outputs generated through the project, the following exit protocol is proposed: Knowledge from the wild buffalo project will be shared via various channels to reach diverse audiences. For the scientific community, findings will be published in peer-reviewed journals and technical reports, contributing to understanding species biology, ecology, and conservation. Presentations at national and international conferences will facilitate engagement with researchers, wildlife managers, and conservationists, encouraging collaboration. To reach the public, talks, articles, and video documentaries will be produced. Project updates will be shared on social media for transparency. Outreach materials like posters and brochures, often in local languages, will be distributed through community activities, local events, and educational programs. This approach aims to raise awareness, build support, and inform conservation management.
16	Extension strategy (if	In the absence of administrative and financial delays, no extension is anticipated.

	any) (In not less than 250 words)	
17	Recommendation of the Program Division	The Wildlife Division of the MoEF&CC has examined the proposed Project titled "Conservation action plan for the wild Water Buffalo (<i>Bubalus arnee</i>): A comprehensive pan-India approach" for seeking financial support from the National Fund as per the section 5(b)(iii) of the CAF Act 2016. The Wildlife Division will function as Program Division for the project which will be implemented through the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, act as an Implementing agency and monitor the physical and financial progress of the project as required under CAF Act, 2016, and CAF Rules, 2018, and submit the quarterly progress report and annual progress report to National CAMPA. The Program Division will ensure forwarding of Utilization Certificate as and when required and demand for the funds, duly filled with the relevant checklist.
18	Views of the National Authority	The scheme has been received through the online MIS portal and is as per the guidelines of the National Authority. The conservation plan of wild water buffalo is as per the collaborative National Conservation Action Plan for major wild fauna of our country. However, this scheme proposal does not indicate about any baseline data carried out at the State/National level with respect to this species. It is also found that the proposal needs to have a monitoring mechanism in place to monitor various deliverables of this scheme along with the participating States.

Recommendation of Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the proposal in its 39th meeting for obtaining approval of Governing Body.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(vii) CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN FOR THE INDIAN RHINOCEROS (*RHINOCEROS UNICORNIS*): PHASE I

Sr. No	Proforma for submission of Scheme/Project	
A	Background	Details
1	Name of Scheme/Project:	Conservation action plan for the Indian rhinoceros (<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>): Phase I
2	Name of the implementing agency	Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
3	Details of the Nodal Officer of the Implementing Agency/ Institute	Dr. Gobind Sagar Bhardwaj, IFS Director, Wildlife Institute of India Email: dwii@wii.gov.in Concerned faculty: Dr. Samrat Mondol, Scientist F Department of Animal Ecology and Conservation Biology Wildlife Institute of India Email: samrat@wii.gov.in
4	Name of the Program Division of the MoEF&CC	Wildlife Division, MoEF&CC
5	Details of the Nodal Officer of the Programme Division, MoEF&CC	Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey, IFS Additional Director General of Forest (Wildlife) and Director, Wildlife Preservation Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Government of India Email: adgwl-mef@nic.in
6	Whether the Scheme/ Project has State Component (Yes/No)	Yes
7	If the answer to the above Item No. 6 is 'Yes', then whether State (s) is (are) on board based on any signed agreement. (a copy of the same to be attached)	The project was conceptualised after a stakeholder meeting under the chairmanship of the Additional Director General of Forest (Wildlife) in January 2026, where all concerned states agreed towards this collaborative project. The minute of the meeting is enclosed herewith (Annexure I) All concerned states (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) are on board for this collaborative proposal.
B	Objectives of Scheme/ Project (Preferably in bullet points and	This Conservation Action Plan aims to ensure the long-term survival and protection of wild rhino populations in their current habitats, while also expanding their range to the newly identified focus areas in Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh.

	in not less than 250 words)	The specific objectives of this project can be grouped into the following broad activities: a) Systematic monitoring and research on the main rhino populations in Assam, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh, along with supporting conservation efforts in new areas such as Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh. This activity will cover the following aspects: - Standardisation of a systematic protocol for rhino population estimation - Conduct a pilot study in the smaller rhino-bearing parks (Dudhwa NP, Pobitora WLS and Gorumara NP) to assess the effectiveness of population-estimation approaches - Develop a standard population monitoring approach (including population estimation protocols) for long-term use by the State forest departments - Assessment of habitat quality by generating primary data on the preferred grass species in rhino diets from all rhino-bearing areas - Assessment of rhino population health (physiology, diet, pathogens, etc.) using multidisciplinary methods - Combine habitat and population health data to develop site-specific management plans (in collaboration with the concerned states) b) Extension, restoration and management of grassland and wetland habitats within existing and potential rhino-bearing areas. Current assessment data and records of rhino presence indicate that, aside from Kaziranga NP, all other rhino-inhabited parks and regions show a clustered distribution of rhinos. The reasons for these patterns are not fully understood, but habitat quality may be a contributing factor. Consequently, it is essential to create detailed, park-wide maps of grasslands that include information on their quality and vegetation patterns. This data will support the development of effective management strategies to broaden rhino distribution within these parks. c) Strengthening and continuation of RhoDIS-India activities to tackle wildlife crime threats in India and for science-based population management. Under the rhino conservation action plan, RhoDIS-India will continue and expand because it makes a significant contribution in the fight against wildlife crime in the country. The
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		program has already established a systematic approach to handling legal procedures related to rhino crimes. As part of this plan, it will be extended to all existing parks and will start operating in the new states of Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh. Key functions include providing sampling kits, crime scene investigation kits, and capacity-building through dedicated training programs. d) Development of a global rhino marker panel to reduce poaching threats for all rhino species. The RhoDIS-India programme was initiated to select and standardise STR markers for forensic use and to help manage the GoH rhinoceros population. Initially, we tested the STR marker panel from the African RhoDIS programme to ensure a consistent dataset across Indian and African rhino species. However, the African markers did not amplify in the Indian GoH rhino, resulting in incompatible datasets due to different marker sets and making them unsuitable for international rhino crime investigations. As a result, we adopted a genomic approach to develop a comprehensive, compatible marker set for all rhino species. We sequenced high-coverage short-read genomes from eight wild rhinos, generating about 555.01 GB of data. One Pobitora WLS rhino sample had higher coverage (40.07X), while others ranged from 20.01X to 29.23X. From this data, we identified approximately 400 tetranucleotide markers for further testing. We plan to extend this research by resequencing more individuals from various parks and testing the new markers with advanced NGS tools for global application. Once validated, this panel will establish India as a leader in addressing global rhino crime. e) Facilitation of inter-state coordination and international collaboration in rhino population management and conservation matters. This will include the following: - Provide technical support to improve within-state rhino population management. This will include within- and between-state translocations, as required. - Help the states of Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh establish a rhino founder population through multidimensional efforts. - Support the existing rhino conservation breeding programme in Bihar so suitable founder animals can be prepared for rewilding.
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		- Provide technical support for the rewilding of the Dudhwa NP rhino population. - Coordinate with MoEF&CC regarding transboundary collaboration with Nepal on rhino conservation matters. f) To enhance capacity for all concerned states and coordinate inter-state capacity building programs for effective rhino management and conservation efforts. The following aspects will be focused: - Translocation efforts - Population and habitat monitoring efforts - Veterinary capacity building - Conflict management						
C	Project Duration and Year-wise activities (additional columns in the table may be added as per the requirement)	Project Duration – 5 years Year-wise activity plan in Annexure II						
D	Project Outlay & Evaluation	Total budget requirements: Rs. 7738.982 lakhs (5-year period) Part A: WII Component (Rs. 1488.982 Lakhs) Part B: Five State Forest Department Component (Rs. 6250 lakhs)						
8	Year-wise estimated expenditure (additional columns in the table may be added as per the requirement)	Year-wise estimated expenditure details in Annexure III.						
9	Proposed midterm evaluation by Programme Division (additional columns In the table, may be added as per the requirement)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Midterm evaluation</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tentative</td><td>March 2028</td><td>March 2030</td></tr> </table>	Midterm evaluation	1	2	Tentative	March 2028	March 2030
Midterm evaluation	1	2						
Tentative	March 2028	March 2030						
10	New or extension/ modification of any existing schemes	New						

11	Revised outlay in case of existing scheme/project	NA
12	In case of modification of an Existing scheme/project: The details of expenditure incurred as of the date, along with a copy of UC indicating unutilized funds.	NA
13	Brief note & Justification for seeking financial support from the National Fund (The Programme Division must categorically state the reason why regular budgetary support cannot be obtained for this scheme/project)	The Greater one-horned (henceforth GoH) Rhinoceros (<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>) is a threatened mega-herbivore primarily found in protected areas of northern India and southern Nepal. Historically, they ranged across the northern floodplains and foothills of the Indian subcontinent, from the Indo-Myanmar border to the Sindhu River basin in Pakistan. Currently, their range has been reduced to isolated populations covering over 2,000 km² of protected areas in India and Nepal. By the early 20th century, the species was on the brink of extinction due to extensive habitat destruction and poaching. However, concerted conservation efforts, including strict legal protections, habitat restoration, translocation, and population management, have contributed to a significant recovery, with India currently hosting around 3,300 individuals and a global estimate of approximately 4000 individuals. The species is now classified as ‘Vulnerable’ by the IUCN, listed in Appendix I of CITES, and protected under Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act (1972). Main threats include poaching, habitat loss, disease, resource depletion, and conflicts with humans. Despite ongoing efforts by various authorities, the Greater one-horned rhinoceros continues to face significant pressures and threats, including habitat loss and fragmentation, disease outbreaks, encroachment, and poaching for its horns. Since India hosts about 81% of the world’s wild rhino population, its conservation initiatives are vital for ensuring the species’ long-term survival. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India is spearheading all efforts for rhino conservation across the major states of Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, and is supporting rhino revival in the states of Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh. In January 2026, a consultative meeting was conducted, led by the Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife) and Director, Wildlife Preservation at MoEF&CC, involving

		representatives from all concerned states. The meeting focused on reviewing the progress of the rhino conservation project RhoDIS-India Phase II and exploring future strategies for rhino conservation across the country, as the earlier effort was being completed. All authorities from the MoEF&CC and the State Forest Departments expressed appreciation for the RhoDIS-India program's data, outcomes, and interpretations and discussed next steps for rhino conservation. After detailed discussions, the ADG(WL) recommended that the project's future activities should align with a broader National Conservation Action Plan. This plan should emphasise habitat-specific strategies and expand rhino distribution into new areas. The ADG(WL) also advised that WII develop a comprehensive, collaborative Rhino Conservation Action Plan for the next 10 years, divided into two phases of 5 years each, involving MoEF&CC, WII, and relevant State Forest Departments. As per the directions of the MoEF&CC, this proposal is being submitted for funding support from CAMPA.
14	Implementing Agency (IA) shall adhere to the Provision of GFR 2017 and the Government Accounting Rules 1990. IA is required to comply with the guidelines letter no. 24(35) PF-II/2012 dated 05 th August, 2016 issued by Department of expenditure	The Implementing Agency (WII) undertakes to adhere strictly to the provisions of the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017, the Government Accounting Rules 1990, and the guidelines issued by the Department of Expenditure vide letter no. 24(35) PF-II/2012 dated 05th August 2016, in the receipt, utilisation, accounting, and reporting of project funds. The concerned states will also strictly adhere to the provisions of the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017, the Government Accounting Rules 1990, and the guidelines issued by the Department of Expenditure vide letter no. 24(35) PF-II/2012 dated 05th August 2016, in the receipt, utilisation, accounting, and reporting of project funds.
E	Deliverables	l) Standardisation of a systematic protocol for rhino population estimation m) Conduct a pilot study in the smaller rhino-bearing parks (Dudhwa NP, Pobitora WLS and Gorumara NP) to assess the effectiveness of population-estimation approaches n) Develop a standard population monitoring approach (including population estimation protocols) for long-term use by the State forest departments o) Assessment of habitat quality by generating primary data on the preferred grass species in rhino diets from all rhino-bearing areas p) Assessment of rhino population health (physiology, diet, pathogens, etc.) using multidisciplinary methods
	Outputs of scheme/project	
	Outcomes of scheme/ project	

		q) Combine habitat and population health data to develop site-specific management plans (in collaboration with the concerned states) r) Extension, restoration and management of grassland and wetland habitats within existing and potential rhino-bearing areas. s) Strengthening and continuation of RhoDIS-India activities to tackle wildlife crime threats in India and for science-based population management. t) Development of a global rhino marker panel to reduce poaching threats for all rhino species. u) Provide technical support to improve within-state rhino population management. This will include within- and between-state translocations, as required. v) Help the states of Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh establish a rhino founder population through multidimensional efforts. w) Support the existing rhino conservation breeding programme in Bihar so suitable founder animals can be prepared for rewilding. x) Provide technical support for the rewilding of the Dudhwa NP rhino population. y) Coordinate with MoEF&CC regarding transboundary collaboration with Nepal on rhino conservation matters. z) To enhance capacity for all concerned states and coordinate inter-state capacity building programs for effective rhino management and conservation efforts. The following aspects will be focused: - Translocation efforts - Population and habitat monitoring efforts - Veterinary capacity building - Conflict management
F	Deliverables of scheme/ project (including year wise) (additional columns In the table, may be added as per the requirement)	Year-wise deliverables of the project in Annexure II
15	Exit protocol of the scheme/project (In	The proposed project consists of defined objectives that are unlikely to spillover beyond the timeline of the project. No fixed / permanent assets are proposed to be created through

	not less than 250 words)	the project and exit protocol for transfer of assets is not required. For long-term sustainability and utility of the outputs generated through the project, the following exit protocol is proposed: Knowledge from the rhino conservation project will be disseminated through various channels to reach a broad audience. For the scientific community, results will be published in peer-reviewed journals and technical reports, enhancing understanding of species biology, ecology, and conservation efforts. Presentations at national and international conferences will promote engagement with researchers, wildlife managers, and conservationists, fostering collaboration. To connect with the public, talks, articles, and other accessible documents will be created. Project updates will be shared via social media to ensure transparency. Outreach materials, such as posters and brochures, translated into local languages, will be distributed through community activities, local events, and educational programs. This strategy aims to raise awareness, garner support, and inform conservation practices.
16	Extension strategy (if any) (In not less than 250 words)	In the absence of administrative and financial delays, no extension is anticipated.
17	Recommendation of the Program Division	The proposal has been examined in the Wildlife Division and recommended by the Competent Authority
18	Views of National Authority	The scheme proposal has been received through the online MIS portal and is broadly in conformity with the guidelines of the National Authority. The proposal envisages several important objectives, including standardisation of rhino population estimation protocols, development of long-term monitoring frameworks, habitat quality assessment, population health assessment, habitat restoration, strengthening of forensic capabilities, and capacity building across rhino-bearing States. However, the proposal does not clearly define the outcome indicators, measurable targets, and milestones against which the achievement of these objectives will be assessed during the project period. Further, considering the multi-state nature of the project and the substantial financial outlay involved, a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework may be incorporated, detailing the indicators, timelines, reporting structure, roles and responsibilities of the implementing agencies and participating States, and mechanisms for periodic review and independent assessment. The proposal

		may also specify how the findings generated through research and monitoring components will be translated into management actions and conservation outcomes for rhino populations and their habitats.
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Recommendation of Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the proposal in its 39th meeting for obtaining approval of Governing Body.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(vii) BUDGET REAPPROPRIATION OF ONGOING SCHEME FOR CONSERVATION ACTION FOR MANIPUR'S BROW-ANTLERED DEER OR SANGAI: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH -ESRP

Name of Scheme	Conservation Action for Manipur's Brow-antlered Deer or Sangai: An Integrated Approach -ESRP
Implementing Agency	Wildlife Institute of India
Project Duration/Period	5 years (Extension up to December 2026)
Project Outlay	Rs. 19.95 crore
Fund released	Rs. 10.31 crore
Expenditure	Rs. 8.95 crore
Programme Division	Wildlife Division, MoEFCC
Objectives of the Project: 1. Strengthening the existing population of Sangai in KLNP 2. Establishment of a second population in the wild 3. Involving the local community in conservation efforts 4. Conducting applied research on Sangai and associated species in KLNP 5. Improve habitat conditions and protection measures	
Project Outcomes: 1. Integrated Management Plan of KLNP at various stages of implementation. Two Fire-fighting stations established and capacity building trainings of frontline staff for rescue operations, fire-fighting and wildlife monitoring have been conducted. 2. Livelihood trainings of park dependent communities and formation of 13 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) around KLNP. 3. Habitat restoration and management including phumdi consolidation, controlled burning and routine patrolling inside the park with frontline staff. Collaborative population estimation of Sangai and Hog deer conducted in 2023. 4. Long-term data on hydrological parameters and water levels of Loktak Lake & KLNP collected and analysed to document the ecological damage and dialogue for maintaining sustainable water levels with NHPC & Loktak Development Authority. 5. Land-use & Land-cover map of KLNP (1980-2024) for change in land-use patterns around KLNP. Habitat suitability mapping of Sangai completed. 6. Conservation Breeding Plan for Sangai has been prepared. Reintroduction site for second home has been identified out of five potential sites within Manipur. 7. Livelihood trainings, consultation workshops and awareness programs conducted for local communities at second home site. 8. Proposal for declaration of Pumlun Pat as Conservation Reserve has been recommended in SBWL meetings.	

Recommendation of Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the proposal in its 39th meeting for obtaining approval of Governing Body.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.2: NO COST EXTENSION OF ON-GOING SCHEMES/PROJECTS SUPPORTED FROM NATIONAL CAMPA

(i) CONSERVATION BREEDING OF CHEETAH IN BANNI GRASSLAND, GUJARAT

Name of Scheme	Conservation Breeding of Cheetah in Banni Grassland, Gujarat
Implementing Agency	National Tiger Conservation Authority, MoEF&CC
Project Duration/Period	2 years (2023-24)
Project Outlay	Rs. 20.31 crore
Fund Released	Rs. 14.70 crore
Fund Utilized	Rs. 9.95 crore
Programme Division	National Tiger Conservation Authority, MoEF&CC
Objectives • Establishing the cheetah population to India: Captive breeding as a method for restoring the cheetah population is poised to serve as a blueprint or paradigm biodiversity.	
Outcomes and Deliverables a) Cheetah population got re-established b) Captive Breeding Program again showcased successfully	
Request for No Cost Extension: NTCA has requested for the no cost extension of the scheme up to 31.03.2026 vide letter no 5-12/2022-NTCA dated 29.05.2025.	

Recommendation of Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the no cost extension of scheme upto 31.03.2026.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(ii) PHASE II ESTABLISHING META-POPULATION OF CHEETAH IN INDIA

Name of Scheme	Phase II Establishing Meta-population of Cheetah in India
Implementing Agency	National Tiger Conservation Authority, MoEF&CC
Project Duration/Period	1 year (2024-25)
Project Outlay	Rs. 56.80 crore
Fund Released	Rs. 26.20 crore
Fund Utilized	Not utilized
Programme Division	National Tiger Conservation Authority, MoEF&CC
Objectives a) To establish breeding cheetah populations in safe habitats across its historical range and manage them as a metapopulation. b) To use the cheetah as a charismatic flagship and umbrella species to garner resources for restoring open forest and savanna systems that will benefit biodiversity and ecosystem services from these ecosystems. c) To enhance India's capacity to sequester carbon through ecosystem restoration activities in cheetah conservation areas and thereby contribute towards the global climate change mitigation goals. d) To use the ensuing opportunity for eco-development and eco-tourism to enhance local community livelihoods. e) To manage any conflict by cheetah or other wildlife with local communities within cheetah conservation areas expediently through compensation, awareness, and management actions to win community support	
Outcomes and Deliverables Initiating the establishment of viable cheetah population(s) in India beginning at Kuno National Park along with recovery and management of grassland and open forest systems at the release site and commencing ecological restoration of Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary. Conserving and enhancing the faunal diversity, especially the threatened and endangered species in grassland and open forest habitats by securing and consolidating these neglected ecosystems. Capacity building of State Forest Departments in wildlife and habitat management by imparting knowledge and training on latest techniques in monitoring, capture and translocation and technology enabled protection	
Request for No Cost Extension: NTCA has requested for the no cost extension of the scheme up to 31.03.2027 vide letter no 5-12/2023-NTCA dated 25.04.2025.	

Recommendation of Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the no cost extension of scheme up to 31.03.2027.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(iii) PAN INDIA ASSESSMENT OF CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES UNDER THE IDWH

Name of Scheme	PAN India Assessment of critically endangered species under the IDWH
Implementing Agency	Wildlife Institute of India
Project Duration/Period	2 years (2021-22)
Project Outlay	Rs. 19.05 crore
Fund Released	Rs. 14.43 crore
Fund Utilized	Rs. 12.21 crore
Programme Division	Wildlife Division, MoEF&CC
Project Objectives a) Assess the current status of endangered species covered under DWH Scheme. b) Development of long-term monitoring protocols for populations and their habitats of endangered species covered under the DWH Scheme.	
Request for No Cost Extension: WII, Dehradun has requested for the no cost extension of the scheme up to 31.03.2026 through WL division vide letter no vide letter no WII/FIN/2021-22/77 dated 24.05.2025.	

Recommendation of Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the no cost extension of scheme up to 31.03.2026.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(iv) UNESCO CATEGORY 2 CENTRE-WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Name of Scheme	UNESCO Category 2 Centre-World Natural Heritage Management Training for Asia-Pacific Region
Implementing Agency	Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
Project Duration/Period	5 years (Extended up to 31.03.2025)
Project Outlay	Rs. 18.66 crore
Fund Released	Rs. 18.66 crore
Fund Utilized	Rs. 16.45 crore
Programme Division	Wildlife Division, MoEF&CC
Objectives - Contribute to the strengthening of capacities in the management of World Natural Heritage in the region. - Contribute to the achieving of a more balanced representation of properties from Asia and the Pacific on the World Heritage List. - Raise awareness of the importance of World Natural Heritage and of the need to protect it among the general public and the youth in particular. - Foster international cooperation on World Natural Heritage initiatives.	
Outcomes and Deliverables - Enhanced awareness of diverse stakeholders including youth, teachers, frontline forest personnel, site managers, senior officers - Recognition by Ministry of External Affairs for conducting courses on natural heritage for international participants annually. - Fulfilment of India's World Heritage reporting and monitoring obligations. - Inclusion of 4 Tentative List sites for India (Garo Hills CA, Keibul Lamjao NP, Bhedaghat-Lametaghat, Satpura TR) besides review of 12 more TLs for GSI, UP Tourism and Gujarat FD. - Inscription of 1 Mixed Natural Cultural Heritage Site (Khangchendzonga National Park). 3 Courses in Natural Heritage Management with sponsored by MEA, Govt of India. 37 candidates from 22 countries and 5 continents availed these courses. ~ 2500 trained participants from India & above 50 countries on World Heritage themes	
Request for Extension: WII, Dehradun has requested for the no cost extension of the scheme up to 31.03.2026 through WL division vide letter no WL/C2C/Finance/82/2020 dated 11.04.2025.	

Recommendation of Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the no cost extension of scheme up to 31.03.2026.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(v) CONSERVATION ACTION FOR MANIPUR'S BROW-ANTLERED DEER OR SANGAI: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

Name of Scheme	Conservation Action for Manipur's Brow-antlered Deer or Sangai: An Integrated Approach -ESRP-WII
Implementing Agency	WII, Dehradun
Project Duration/Period	5 year (Extension up to December 2025)
Project Outlay	Rs. 19.95 crore
Fund released	Rs. 10.30 crore
Expenditure	Rs. 8.39 crore
Programme Division	Wildlife Division, MoEF&CC
Objectives of the Project - Strengthening the existing population of Sangai in KLNP - Establishment of a second population in the wild. - Involving the local community in conservation efforts - Conducting applied research on Sangai and associated species in KLNP - Improve habitat conditions and protection measures	
Project Outcomes - Integrated Management Plan of KLNP at various stages of implementation. Two Fire-fighting stations established and capacity building trainings of frontline staff for rescue operations, fire-fighting and wildlife monitoring have been conducted. - Livelihood trainings of park dependent communities and formation of 13 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) around KLNP. - Habitat restoration and management including phumdi consolidation, controlled burning and routine patrolling inside the Park with frontline staff. Collaborative population estimation of Sangai and Hog deer conducted in 2023. - Long-term data on hydrological parameters and water levels of Loktak Lake & KLNP collected and analyzed to document the ecological damage and dialogue for maintaining sustainable water levels with NHPC & Loktak Development Authority. - Land-use & Land-cover map of KLNP (1980-2024) for change in land-use patterns around KLNP. Habitat suitability mapping of Sangai completed. - Conservation Breeding Plan for Sangai has been prepared. Reintroduction site for second home has been identified out of five potential sites within Manipur. - Livelihood trainings, consultation workshops and awareness programs conducted for local communities at second home site. - Proposal for declaration of Pumlun Pat as Conservation Reserve has been recommended in SBWL meetings.	
Request for No Cost Extension: WII has requested for the No Cost Extension of the scheme up to December, 2026 and the same has been recommended by the Programme Division i.e. Wildlife Division vide their letter no WL-8/195/2025-WL dated 27.11.2025.	

Recommendation of the Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the No Cost Extension of scheme up to **December, 2026**.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(vi) RECOVERY OF DUGONGS AND THEIR HABITAT IN INDIA: AN INTEGRATED PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

Name of Scheme	Recovery of Dugongs and their habitat in India: An Integrated participatory approach -ESRP-WII
Implementing Agency	WII, Dehradun
Project Duration/Period	5 year (Extension up to December 2025)
Project Outlay	Rs. 23.57 crore
Fund released	Rs. 18.38 crore
Expenditure	Rs. 16.47 crore
Programme Division	Wildlife Division, MoEF&CC
Objectives of the Project - Species conservation and management. - Habitat conservation and management. - Participatory management of dugong and their habitats. - Capacity-building of state forests department & local communities.	
Project Outcomes - Monitoring plans: Site-specific plans for seagrass monitoring are being developed. - Gujarat: >10 reef- meadows, 4 vast mid-intertidal meadows and >5 subtidal meadows were charted. - Awareness programs: >100000 people, including fishermen, school children and local youths were sensitized. - Dugong Volunteers network: > 1000 people registered as volunteers (fisherman, coast guards, marine police, local youth, tourist guides, and divers). >90 frontline forests staff trained in SCUBA diving & underwater monitoring technique. > 500 Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy and Marine Police personnel were sensitized towards Marine Biodiversity conservation. >200 aerial sorties conducted for Dugong population estimation - Population estimation techniques with drones have been standardized.	
Request for No Cost Extension: WII has requested for the No Cost Extension of the scheme up to June, 2026 and the same has been recommended by the Programme Division i.e. WL Division vide their letter no WL-8/195/2025-Wildlife Division dated 27.11.2025.	

Recommendation of the Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the No Cost Extension of scheme up to **June, 2026**.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(vii) DEVELOPMENT OF CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN FOR THE GANGES RIVER DOLPHINS

Name of Scheme	Development of Conservation Action Plan for the Ganges River Dolphins -ESRP-WII
Implementing Agency	WII, Dehradun
Project Duration/Period	5 year (Extension up to December 2025)
Project Outlay	Rs. 23.00 crore
Fund released	Rs. 21.37 crore
Expenditure	Rs. 20.88 crore
Programme Division	Wildlife Division, MoEF&CC
Objectives of the Project - To develop monitoring protocol for dolphins. - To assess the status of Ganges River dolphin and associated river fauna like Gharial, Otter, Turtles, Fishes, Skimmer and planktons. - Quality assessment of river habitats in terms of water quality, anthropogenic pressure and landscape surrounding riverscape. - To evaluate the status of invasive species in riverscape. - Involve stakeholders to develop a network which will assist in dolphin conservation.	
Project Outcomes - Developed a scientifically robust population estimation protocol. - Identified key habitat factors for Ganges dolphins through acoustic study and recorded 5900+ hours of dolphin communication. - Intensive monitoring at key sites is ongoing in dolphin inhabited river states - To understand habitat utilization, first ever Ganges river dolphin was tagged in Assam and was monitored till Feb 2025 till the signals ceased. - Threat mapping for Ganges dolphins completed in Ganga and Brahmaputra, with 30-year change detection in Brahmaputra. - High pesticides concentration (organochlorine & organophosphate) and organic load found in Ganga River stretch of (Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. - Market and fish landing sites surveys revealed invasive species (n=10) in dolphin hotspot; studies are underway to assess their spread. - Community awareness campaigns in Assam (9000 participants) and Bengal (1228 participants), including Dolphin Day celebrations (180 participants). - Fishery awareness campaigns (1097 fishers) and ghost net management workshops (1277 fishers).	
Request for No Cost Extension: WII has requested for the No Cost Extension of the scheme up to March, 2026 the same has been recommended by the Programme Division i.e. Wildlife Division vide their letter no WL-8/200/2025-WL (E-284688) dated 15.12.2025.	

Recommendation of the Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the No Cost Extension of scheme up to **March, 2026**.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(viii) IMPLEMENTING THE CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY NATIONAL ACTION PLAN WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE PREPARATION OF THE SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVE PLAN, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND DEVELOPING BIRD SENSITIVITY MAP FOR SETTING UP OF WIND ENERGY AND SPECIES ACTION PLANS

Name of Scheme	Implementing the Central Asian Flyway National Action Plan with a special focus on the preparation of the site-specific active plan, capacity building, and developing bird sensitivity map for setting up of wind energy and species action plans
Implementing Agency	BNHS, Mumbai
Project Duration/Period	3 years (Extension up to March 2025)
Project Outlay	Rs. 3.754 crore
Fund released	Rs. 1.61 crore
Expenditure	Rs. 1.75 crore (As per the reports received from BNHS)
Programme Division	Wildlife Division, MoEF&CC
Objectives of the Project - Developing site-specific actions and objectives related to the conservation of migratory bird species and their habitats in protected area plans (both management and working plans) and details of action to be taken for the non-protected areas. - Imparting training to forest staff and other stakeholders in various aspects of migratory bird conservation - Preparing bird sensitivity maps for setting up of the windfarms and energy sectors in India - Preparing a single species action plan for the 20 species prioritized in the National Action Plan.	
Request for No Cost Extension: BNHS, Mumbai has requested for the No Cost Extension of the scheme up to March 2028 (2 years) vide their letter no 1063/2025 dated 27.06.2025.	

Recommendation of the Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the No Cost Extension of scheme up to **March, 2028 (2 years)**.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(ix) STRENGTHENING FORESTRY RESEARCH FOR ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT

Name of Scheme	Strengthening Forestry Research for Ecological Sustainability and Productivity Enhancement"-ICFRE
Implementing Agency	ICFRE, Dehradun
Project Duration/Period	6 years (Extended up to 2025-26)
Project Outlay	Rs. 313.67 crore
Fund released	Rs. 216.18 crore
Expenditure	Rs. 189.62 crore
Programme Division	RT Division, MoEF&CC
Objectives of the Project - To evaluate clonal / family accessions for suitability to inland, waterlogged, salt-affected areas and other potential environments. - To screen accessions for suitability to grow as nurse plants in sandalwood plantations and as an alternate crop for Eucalyptus. - To assess water and nutrient use efficiency of accessions and develop a package of cultivation practices for most productive of them. - To evaluate the wood properties of new accessions for matching with different end uses. - To develop and field test new hybrid combinations to select advance generation planting material for future deployment.	
Request for No Cost Extension: ICFRE, Dehradun has requested for the No Cost Extension of the scheme for the period of 2 years (2026-27 and 2027-28) vide their letter no 75/2025/ICFRE/R/RP/SFRESPE/CAMPA/main file/Vol.X/454 dated 30.01.2026.	

Recommendation of the Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the No Cost Extension of scheme for the period of **2 years (2026-27 and 2027-28)**

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(x) NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE SCHEME ON FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT

Name of Scheme	National Collaborative Scheme on Forest Fire Management-ICFRE-FRI
Implementing Agency	ICFRE-FRI, Dehradun
Project Duration/Period	4 years
Project Outlay	Rs. 22.31 crore
Fund released	Rs. 6.45 crore
Expenditure	Rs. 2.91 crore
Programme Division	Forest Protection Division, MoEF&CC
Objectives of the Project a) Development of National Web Portal for Database Management and Knowledge Dissemination. b) Development of Forest Fire Knowledge Network. c) Study on Impact of Future Climate Change Scenario on Forest Fire Vulnerability. d) Post Fire Restoration and Rehabilitation Strategy. e) Community Based Forest Fire Management. f) Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)	
Request for No Cost Extension: ICFRE-FRI, Dehradun has requested for the No Cost Extension of the scheme for the period of 1 year up to 2026-27 vide their letter no 2-141/2022-HSD-488 dated 03.02.2026.	

Recommendation of the Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the No Cost Extension of scheme for the period of **1 year up to 2026-27**.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(xi) REHABILITATION AND RETROFITTING OF FRI HERITAGE BUILDING

Name of Scheme	Rehabilitation and Retrofitting of FRI Heritage Building - ICFRE-FRI
Implementing Agency	ICFRE-FRI, Dehradun
Project Duration/Period	1 year
Project Outlay	Rs. 10.35 crore
Fund released	Rs. 10.35 crore
Expenditure	Rs. 10.35 crore
Programme Division	RT Division, MoE&FCC
Objectives of the Project a) Retro fitment of domes. b) Restoration and renewal of wooden window frames and shutters. c) Replacement of old roofing over the var. of Museums to check the seepage problem. d) Siloxane treatment on exposed masonry and stone areas, with breathable, non-reactive, antifungal and water repellent as approved by Archaeological Survey of India e) Polyurethane polishing of windows and doors f) Finishing of terrazzo stone surfaces renewal of cast iron fittings, where required g) Lime plaster as per original design, where required. h) Anti-termite treatment, where required. i) Plinth protection to check dampness in structure j) Repair and renewal of wooden roofing shingles with framework	
Request for No Cost Extension: ICFRE-FRI has requested for no cost extension of scheme up to 31.05.2026 and the same has been recommended by Programme Division i.e. RT Division vide their letter no 1-29/2016-RT dated 24.02.2026.	

Recommendation of the Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the No Cost Extension of scheme up to **31.12.2026**

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

(xii) ESTIMATION OF ECONOMIC LOSSES IN REAL TERM PER HECTARE BASIS DUE TO FOREST FIRE IN UTTARAKHAND AND MADHYA PRADESH (ICFRE)

Name of Scheme	Estimation of Economic Losses in real terms on per hectare basis due to Forest Fire in Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh-ICFRE
Implementing Agency	ICFRE, Dehradun
Project Duration/Period	1 year
Project Outlay	Rs. 3.78 crore
Fund released	Rs. 3.40 crore
Expenditure	Rs. 3.40 crore
Programme Division	Forest Protection Division, MoEF&CC
Objectives of the Project a) To quantify the forest loss in terms of total economic value i.e., monetary value on per hectare basis for the forest types in the States of Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh. b) Burnt area assessment and severity classification due to forest fire for the respective states. c) Economic loss assessment of terrestrial flora due to forest fire on per hectare basis for the respective states. d) Economic loss assessment of faunal diversity due to forest fire on per hectare basis for the respective states.	
Request for No Cost Extension: ICFRE, Dehradun has requested for the No cost extension of the scheme up to 30.9.2026 vide their letter dated 20.02.2026.	

Recommendation of the Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the No Cost Extension of scheme up to **30.09.2026**

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The approval of scheme as recommended by Executive Committee.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

PROPOSAL TO LAUNCH SCHEME ON LANDSCAPE RESTORATION, COMBATING LAND DEGRADATION AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS WITH SUPPORT FROM NATIONAL FUND UNDER SECTION 5(B) (III) OF CAF ACT 2016, UTILIZING SPARABLE AMOUNT AVAILABLE WITH NATIONAL AUTHORITY CAMPA

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9.1. AASTHA VAN SANRAKSHAN YOJANA

Astha Vans are vital, living fragments of native vegetation that local communities have protected for generations, ranging in size from less than one hectare to several square kilometres. In essence, an Astha Van is a sacred, safeguarded patch of native flora, conserved through faith, traditional beliefs, and collective community stewardship across rural, peri-urban, and urban landscapes.

A. Vision: Astha Van Sanrakshan Yojana envisions protecting culturally sacred forest landscapes to safeguard biodiversity, restore ecological balance, and secure sustainable livelihoods, while revitalizing traditional ecological knowledge and promoting the conservation of forest resources and community stewardship as a powerful source of cultural pride, spiritual connection, and educational inspiration.

B. Objectives:

1. To identify, map, and document all sacred groves across India using remote sensing, GIS, and field surveys, and to make this information available through an open-access digital portal.
2. To develop a national spatial database of sacred groves, including their boundaries, area, ecological features, level of degradation, and cultural significance, geo-coordinates, photographs for long-term monitoring and research.
3. To restore and rejuvenate degraded sacred groves using scientifically sound and culturally appropriate methods, supported by species inventories, Artificial Regeneration (AR), Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC), Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR), Catchment Area Treatment (CAT), and conservation of associated water bodies.
4. To create sustainable livelihood models linked to sacred groves for marginalised communities, especially tribal communities and women, by documenting their socio-economic conditions and helping them develop, upgrade, and market products and services with fair profit-sharing.
5. To establish and strengthen inclusive institutions such as State/UT-level Astha Van Sanrakshan Committees (AVSCs), ensuring participation of tribal communities, women, Forest Departments, Tourism Boards, and other stakeholders in co-management and conflict resolution.
6. To build the capacity of youth and local communities through partnerships with NGOs, by providing training on sacred grove ecology, cultural identity, restoration practices, climate change, and sustainable livelihoods, and by supporting youth-led conservation and enterprise models.

Status

Amirthalingam (2016) and Warriier *et al.* (2023) documented the number of sacred groves in India per state in Table 1 below. The total number exceeds 15,000 groves in the state of India.

S.No	Name of the State	Sacred Groves Local Name	No. of Sacred Groves
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Pavithra vanalu	800
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Gumpa forest	101
3.	Assam	Than, Madaico	40
4.	Bihar	Sarnas	43
5.	Chhattisgarh	Sarna, Devlas, Mandar, Budhadev	600+
6.	Goa	Deorai, Pann	100
7.	Gujarat	Sabarkantha, Dahod and Banaskantha	42
8.	Haryana	Beed or Bid, Bani, Janglat, Shamlat	20+
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Deobhumi	5000+
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Kheer Bhawani	150
11.	Jharkhand	Sarna, Jaherthan	29
12.	Karnataka	Devarakadu, Devkad	1476
13.	Kerala	Kavu, Sarpakavu	644
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Sharana, Devkot, Matikot, Devsthali, Bhdhadev	101
15.	Maharashtra	Deorai, Devarai	2820+
16.	Manipur	Gamkhap, Mauhak	166
17.	Meghalaya	Law kyntang, Law lyngdoh	101
19.	Odisha	Jahera, Thakuramma	169
20.	Puducherry	Kovil Kadugal, Ayappan Kavu	123
21.	Rajasthan	Oran, kenkri, Vani, Shamlatdeh, Devbani, Jogmaya	560+
22.	Sikkim	Gumpa forest	56
23.	Tamil Nadu	Kovilkadu	1261
24.	Telangana	Rakshita vanalu	65
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Dev van	33
27.	Uttarakhand	Deo bhumi, Bugyal	126
28.	West Bengal	Gramthan, Haritan, Sabitritan, Jahera, Deo Tasara and Mawmund	560+
	Total		15186+

Source: Amirthalingam (2016) & Warriier *et al.* (2023)

Note: *All sacred groves listed above, including those identified by their respective local and traditional names across different States/UTs, shall be brought under the ambit of the Astha Van Sanrakshan Yojana. The Scheme shall encompass both documented and traditionally recognized sacred groves to ensure their systematic conservation, restoration, and sustained management under a unified national framework*



Blicharska *et al.* (2013)



Chamundi Theyyam at Alambadi Illam,
Madikai, Kasaragod



Sacred groves of Kodagu, Karnataka



Sacred grove at Aghane near Bhimashankar
Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra

C. Guidelines for implementation of Astha Van Sanrakshan Yojana

C 1. Criteria for Selecting Groves Within Each State

Within each State/UT, area coverage shall be determined by the following site selection hierarchy:

1. Eligibility Conditions for Inclusion: A sacred grove/Astha Van shall be eligible if:

- a) It is traditionally recognised as sacred places by local communities (temple committee, village council, traditional custodians, etc.) and mentioned in land records of various land-owning agencies.

AND

- b) It's surrounding area is ecologically degraded, as evidenced by one or more of the following:
 - i. high anthropogenic disturbance (fire, overgrazing, illegal felling, encroachment, waste dumping)
 - ii. dominance of invasive alien species
 - iii. decline in key biodiversity
 - iv. reduction in native tree species canopy cover
 - v. poor natural regeneration
 - vi. soil and moisture degradation,
 - vii. degraded water bodies,

- 2. Prioritisation Criteria:** Within the eligible pool, States/UTs/Districts shall prioritise groves that:
- Are located in ecologically sensitive zones, biodiversity hotspots, or critical catchments.
 - Are associated with marginalised/tribal communities and women's groups, where livelihood benefits can significantly enhance socio-economic resilience.
 - Show severe or rapidly worsening degradation but retain potential for restoration (presence of remnant native species, viable soil and moisture conditions, etc.).
 - Have strong local institutional support (active temple committee, Panchayat, *Mahila/Yuva Mangal Dal*, etc.) and demonstrated willingness to participate in co-management.
 - Are part of a cluster of sacred groves that can be treated as a landscape-level intervention (contiguous/nearby sites adding up to 5 ha or more).

C 2. General:

- The scheme shall be implemented over a period of five years, from 2026-27 to 2030-31 with an initial corpus of ₹3,000 crore for 15,000 Astha Vans through National CAMPA fund, subject to periodic review and continuation based on assessed ecological outcomes, social impacts, and overall scheme performance.
- A detailed project proposal for the Astha Van Sanrakshan Yojana shall be prepared by the concerned Implementing Agency. The Implementing Agency shall submit the proposal before the State Level Steering and Executive Committee, constituted as per the CAF Act, 2016 for consideration. Upon due screening and scrutiny, the proposal shall be forwarded to the National Authority for fund approval through MIS portal.
- A Committee, namely Astha Van Sanrakshan Committee (AVSC), shall be constituted at two levels, namely **District Level** and **Panchayat Samiti Level**, with the following composition:

(A) District-Level (AVSC) Committee

- District Magistrate (DM) – Chairperson
- Divisional Forest Officer (DFO)/Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) – Member Secretary
- Member of Parliament (MP)/Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) – Special Invitee
- Ecologist/Biodiversity Expert – Member
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Zila Parishad – Member
- District Tribal Welfare Officer – Member
- Representative from the State Biodiversity Board – Member
- Representatives from Departments of:
 - Culture
 - Tribal Affairs
 - Tourism
 - Skill Development & Labour – Members
- Representative of a reputed NGO working in biodiversity/conservation – Member
- Representative of local academic/research institution (Forestry/Environment)

- k. One Project Associate- a Life Sciences/Forestry/Environment Post-Graduate with two years of experience will be engaged on contractual basis for the scheme period. The Project Associate so engaged for AVSY will work under the guidance of the DFO/DCF at the district level while ensuring complete co-ordination with Panchayat Samiti level (AVSC) Committee and the Range Officers of the Forest Division.

(B) Panchayat Samiti Level (AVSC) Committee

- a. Block Development Officer (BDO) – Chairperson
 - b. Range Officer (RO) – Member Secretary
 - c. Pradhan (Gram Panchayat) – Member
 - d. Panchayat Secretary/Mantri – Member
 - e. Representative of Mahila Mangal Dal / Self Help Group (SHG) – Member
 - f. Representative of Yuva Mangal Dal / Local Youth Group – Member
 - g. SC/ST Community Representative – Member
 - h. Traditional Custodian / Temple Committee Representative (where applicable) – Member
 - i. Local School Teacher / Educated Youth / Village Elder – Member
 - j. Representative from local NGO/Community-Based Organization (if available) – Member
4. The Astha Van Sanrakshan Committee shall adhere to provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, Forest Rights Act, 2006, and all relevant guidelines, notifications, and orders issued under these statutes.
 5. The effective area of each Astha Van shall be precisely delineated and demarcated on ground. Such land parcels should have already been duly earmarked and recorded in the relevant revenue and forest records, thereby minimizing the likelihood of future disputes or conflicts. Boundaries shall be officially notified through Gazette notification and physically marked with permanent boundary pillars, stones, or signage. Geo-referenced digital mapping using DGPS/GIS and comprehensive documentation shall be maintained for official records and monitoring. Existing Astha Vans, irrespective of traditional size, may be included under the scheme.
 6. Existing Astha Vans of any traditional size may qualify for inclusion. New Astha Vans shall preferably cover a minimum contiguous area of 2 hectare and shall be established at culturally significant locations to revive traditional conservation practices.
 7. Restoration of degraded or diminished Astha Vans may also be taken up. However, this enrichment plantation shall be carried out with native species.
 8. Astha Vans shall promote native, indigenous tree species and culturally significant plants associated with local traditions, religious rituals, and biodiversity heritage.
 9. Every Panchayat Samiti shall aim to develop at least one Astha Van, with priority given to ecologically sensitive zones, biodiversity hotspots, and areas of cultural importance.
 10. Essential eco-friendly amenities for visitors shall be provided to enhance accessibility and usage, including:
 - a. Safe drinking water facility with rainwater harvesting and recharging;
 - b. Minimum number of seating arrangements (benches/ sustainable structures) for elderly and visitors as per requirement
 - c. Pathways constructed using permeable, eco-friendly materials like gravel, laterite, or stabilized earth; and

- d. Informational display boards fabricated from durable, weather-resistant, and biodegradable materials.
 - e. Constructions in the area must be carried out with careful consideration for aesthetics and minimal disturbance to the local culture.
11. Prominent signboards and interpretive panels at strategic locations shall display:
- a. Name and unique identification code of the Astha Van;
 - b. Statement on its ecological significance and cultural heritage value;
 - c. Inventory of key flora, fauna, and associated biodiversity;
 - d. Funding source (National CAMPA Fund - initial phase) and implementing agency details.
 - e. QR code
12. Adequate fire prevention infrastructure, including fire safety equipment, extinguishers, and watch towers, shall be installed. Fire lines of specified width shall be created/maintained as per field requirements. Community-based fire vigilance and rapid response systems shall be established and trained.
13. No commercial exploitation, tree felling, or non-conservation activities shall be permitted under any circumstances. Only scientific ecological management, restoration, and conservation activities shall be undertaken. Grazing and extraction of minor forest produce shall be strictly regulated as per traditional community norms harmonized with conservation objectives.
14. The financial modalities of the scheme will be as follows:
- a. Under this scheme the National Authority will provide fund to the Implementing Agencies/State (UT) Forest Departments for five years.
 - b. The Scheme shall be developed with a participatory approach, adopting a PPP model, to ensure public participation in planning, implementation and management of Astha Van. The Scheme shall also encourage philanthropic support and voluntary contributions from NGOs, corporate entities (including under CSR), and other stakeholders. Appropriate agreements or memoranda of understanding between the Government, implementing agencies, NGOs, corporate partners and other stakeholders shall be executed as may be required.
 - c. A Corpus of the entire funds received by the implementing agency shall be maintained in an interest-bearing account in a government/ public sector bank.
 - d. Financial assistance will be provided under this scheme to each Astha Van for five years only, with a primary focus on promoting sustainable conservation and long-term ecological management.
 - e. Detailed account of receipts and Astha Van wise expenditure shall be maintained by each implementing agency. Likewise, the SFD shall maintain an account of receipts, and implementing agency wise expenditure from its Corpus.
 - f. All funds received by implementing agency shall be subject to annual audit by a chartered accountant.

C 3. Components of Astha Van Sanrakshan Yojana

Following items of work may be undertaken in Astha Van Sanrakshan Yojana

1. **National Inventory & Mapping of Sacred Groves**
 - a) Field surveys and spatial mapping (GIS/remote sensing)
 - b) Creation of a national spatial database (shapefiles, attributes, photos, cultural notes)
 - c) Development of an open-access digital portal with interactive maps and dashboards
2. **Ecological Restoration & Rejuvenation of Sacred Groves**
 - a) Species inventory and site-specific restoration planning
 - b) Implementation of AR, ANR, and catchment treatment measures
 - c) Long-term ecological monitoring (biodiversity, survival, carbon, degradation trends)
3. **Livelihood Development & Market Linkages for Communities**
 - a) Socio-economic surveys of communities linked to sacred groves
 - b) Inventory and development of products/services (especially for tribal communities and women)
 - c) Branding, marketing, and tourism-linked promotion
 - d) Design and piloting of equitable business and profit-sharing models
4. **Institutional Mechanisms & Co-management (Astha Van Sanrakshan Committee)**
 - a) Formation and strengthening of State/UT-level AVSCs
 - b) Integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge with scientific management
 - c) Development of legal and institutional frameworks for co-management and conflict resolution
5. **Capacity Building, Youth Engagement & NGO Partnerships**
 - a) Partnerships with NGOs for mobilisation, training, and awareness
 - b) Identification and training of motivated youth as local stewards/ eco-entrepreneurs
 - c) Piloting youth-led conservation and livelihood initiatives

C 4. Administrative Structure and Responsibilities

1. Roles of the Astha Van Sanrakshan Committees (AVSCs)

District-level AVSCs: Provides leadership, technical guidance and inter-departmental coordination.

- a) **Planning & Policy Guidance**
 - i. Prepare and approve the district AVSY action plan aligned with state biodiversity strategies and local needs.
 - ii. Identify priority areas for conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, especially in tribal and ecologically sensitive regions.
 - iii. Integrate AVSY activities with district development plans, forest working plans and Zila Parishad/line department programmes.
 - iv. Review and endorse project proposals prepared by the Forest Department (Implementing Agency) before they are sent upward.
- b) **Technical and Expert Support**
 - i. Use expertise of Ecologist/Biodiversity Expert and State Biodiversity Board representative to design scientifically sound interventions.
 - ii. Promote documentation of biodiversity, traditional knowledge and cultural practices through academic and research institutions.
- c) **Coordination and Convergence**
 - i. Ensure coordination among Forest, Tribal Affairs, Tourism, Culture, Skill Development & Labour and other departments for on-ground convergence.
 - ii. Involve MPs/MLAs as special invitees for policy support, resource mobilization and advocacy.
 - iii. Engage reputed NGOs and community-based institutions for capacity building and community mobilization.
- d) **Implementation Oversight and Monitoring**

- i. Guide implementation through the DFO/DCF (Member Secretary) and Project Associate.
- ii. Review progress from Panchayat Samiti Level Committees and Range Officers, resolve bottlenecks and issue directions.
- iii. Ensure transparent and effective use of funds with focus on tribal communities, women and youth.
- e) Role of the Project Associate
 - i. Assist DFO/DCF in preparing micro-plans, compiling data, maintaining records and preparing periodic reports.
 - ii. Coordinate between District-Level Committee, Panchayat Samiti Committees and Range Officers for smooth information flow and timely implementation.

Panchayati Samiti-level AVSCs: Key implementing and community interface body, taking AVSY activities to villages.

- a) Local Planning and Micro-level execution
 - i. Prepare block- and village-level micro-plans with Gram Panchayats, SHGs, youth groups and local communities.
 - ii. Identify sites and activities such as plantations, soil and water conservation, community-managed forests, sacred groves and eco-tourism.
- b) Community Mobilization and Participation
 - i. Involve Pradhans, Panchayat Secretaries, Mahila Mangal Dal/SHGs, Yuva Mangal Dal/youth groups, SC/ST representatives and traditional custodians.
 - ii. Encourage leadership of women, youth and marginalized groups in conservation and livelihood activities.
- c) Implementation and Coordination with Forest Department
 - i. Work under the Block Development Officer (Chairperson) and in close coordination with the Range Officer (Member Secretary).
 - ii. Facilitate field execution of nursery raising, plantations, protection of forest patches, awareness campaigns and trainings.
- d) Conservation of Culture and Traditions
 - i. Engage Traditional custodians/Temple Committees, teachers, youth and elders to protect sacred landscapes, cultural sites and traditional ecological knowledge.
 - ii. Organize events, awareness drives and school programmes on biodiversity, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods.
- e) Monitoring, Reporting and Feedback
 - i. Review block-level progress, record community feedback and report issues to the district-Level Committee through the Range Officer.
 - ii. Ensure transparency and social accountability by sharing information with Gram Sabhas and stakeholders.

Through this two-tier structure, the AVSC framework combines scientific expertise, administrative support and community knowledge to conserve biodiversity while improving local livelihoods and wellbeing.

Sustainability Beyond Project Period: After completion of the five-year project period, the district-level Astha Van Sanrakshan Committee and the Panchayat Samiti-level Astha Van Sanrakshan Committee shall assume primary responsibility for the continued maintenance and conservation of the sacred groves, in alignment with principles of ecological sustainability and the carrying capacity of each grove. To ensure the financial sustainability of every Astha Van beyond scheme period, the district AVSC may explore areas to generate revenue from various sources

during the implementation phase. A suitable mechanism could be developed to ensure the protection and maintenance of the corpus fund beyond the scheme period.

2. Roles of the Project Associate

- a) Data Collection & Documentation
 - i. Assist in survey, mapping, and documentation of sacred groves: GPS points, shapefiles/KMLs, photographs, cultural notes.
 - ii. Maintain the district-level database for the national portal and MIS.
- b) Technical Support for Proposals
 - i. Help prepare detailed project proposals: baseline status, degradation assessment, species lists, restoration plan, budgets.
 - ii. Compile and organise required annexures for submission to SFD and National Authority.
- c) Monitoring & MIS Reporting
 - i. Track physical and financial progress for each Astha Van in the district.
 - ii. Prepare quarterly and annual progress reports and upload data, photos, and documents into the MIS.
 - iii. Assist in preparing utilization certificates and supporting statements for release of subsequent instalments.
- d) Field Coordination
 - i. Coordinate between Range Officers, frontline staff, and community groups for implementation.
 - ii. Help organise field visits for AVSC members and higher officials.
- e) Community & Youth Engagement Support
 - i. Support training programmes for youth, local eco-stewards, and women's groups.
 - ii. Help document livelihood options and value chains linked to sacred groves.
- f) Compliance & Documentation for Audits
 - i. Maintain well-organised files (digital and physical) for audits and inspections.
 - ii. Ensure that interest accrued, fund use, and physical progress are all traceable for each project.

3. Meeting Schedule and Procedures of Astha Van Sanrakshan Committees (AVSCs)

The Committee shall convene meetings at the following stages:

- a) Initial Planning & Identification: To identify/approve the list of sacred groves to be taken up in Year 1, and later in subsequent years.
- b) Before Proposal Submission: To review and endorse the consolidated district or State proposal before it goes to the State Forest Department / National Authority.
- c) After Receipt of Each Fund Instalment: To approve the annual work plan and physical targets to be met from that instalment.
- d) Periodic Progress Reviews: At least quarterly or half yearly to review field progress, expenditure vs. budget, issues in community participation, any conflicts or complaints.
- e) Before Submitting Utilization Certificates / Major Reports: To verify and endorse progress reports and utilisation certificate before they are sent to the State/National Authority for release of the next instalment.
- f) Special / Emergency Meetings: Whenever there is-
 - i. a serious fire event, encroachment dispute, or illegal activity; or
 - ii. a need to change the management plan or area due to unforeseen issues.

The AVSC must meet at least quarterly, with additional meetings as needed.

C 5. Formulation of Proposal & its approval

1. A detailed project proposal for the Astha Van Sanrakshan Yojana shall be prepared after collating such proposals from the district by the concerned Implementing Agency.
2. The Implementing Agency shall submit the proposal before the State Level Steering and Executive Committee, constituted as per the CAF Act, 2016 for consideration. Upon due screening and scrutiny, the proposal shall be forwarded to the National CAMPA Authority for fund approval through MIS portal.
3. All new scheme proposals received from the Implementing Agencies through the MIS portal for fund approval shall be placed before the Executive Committee (EC) at the National level for consideration and approval. Upon approval by the National CAMPA Authority, the scheme shall be activated, assigned a unique Scheme ID and all follow up action including the release of funds. This process of approval of schemes funded by National Fund is precisely as per the section 15(1)(iii) of the CAF Act 2016.
4. The progress of the scheme shall be reviewed and presented before the Steering Committee at six-month intervals to ensure periodic assessment and strategic guidance. Subsequently, the implementation shall be subject to continuous monitoring and evaluation by the National Authority, CAMPA, through the MIS portal, enabling real-time tracking of physical and financial progress, ensuring transparency, accountability, and timely course correction, wherever required.

D. Fund transfer mechanism under the scheme

1. The National Authority shall release funds as grants, in accordance with the provisions of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 and the rules framed thereunder, directly to the respective State Forest Departments (SFDs).
2. The release of funds shall be made in periodic instalments, based on the progress achieved against the physical and financial targets of the previous instalment, as reported through the MIS portal by the Implementing Agency. The utilization and distribution of funds shall strictly adhere to the provisions of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 and the CAF Rules, 2018.
3. The National Authority CAMPA, shall provide grant to the concerned State Forest Department, based on the approved work requirements, subject to a maximum grant of Rs. 20,00,000 for 5 ha.
4. The grant shall be released in five annual instalments. The first instalment of 60% of the sanctioned amount, shall be released to the State Forest Departments (SFDs) upon approval of the project by the National Authority. The second instalment shall be released after utilization of at least 75% of the first instalment and submission of the Utilization Certificate along with a progress report. As the National Fund is non-lapsable in nature and the funds under this scheme are maintained in nationalized/public sector banks, any interest accrued shall be duly accounted for and remitted back to the National Authority on an annual basis. The remaining three instalments shall be released based on utilization of previously released funds, progress achieved, and demand submitted by the State Forest Department.

5. To meet any additional financial requirements, the respective Implementing Agency shall make necessary provisions in advance. The State/UT Governments/Implementing Agencies may mobilize funds from other sources, including CER/CSR contributions. However, each Implementing Agency shall maintain proper records of funds received from various sources and the expenditure incurred. A commitment to bear the balance cost of the project shall be submitted along with the proposal.
6. Funding Pattern:
 - (a) The fund of Rs. 20 lakhs/5 ha will mainly cover the following:
 - i. Enumeration, GIS mapping, boundary demarcation, signage & protection
 - ii. AVSCs & Governance
 - iii. Drinking water facilities, seating arrangements & trails etc
 - iv. Ecological Restoration of degraded groves (ANR, SMC, Forest Fire prevention etc)
 - v. Livelihood & Community Enterprise
 - vi. Youth Training, Fellowships & Community Awareness
 - vii. Monitoring, Evaluation & Documentation
 - (b) One Project Associate, with a monthly remuneration of ₹50,000 may be engaged at the district level for coordination, monitoring, and community facilitation. The cost towards human resources, including engagement of Project Associates at the district level, shall be met through administrative cost overheads, preferably in convergence with existing schemes, or support from State CAMPA, NGOs, CSR, or other funding sources.
 - (c) Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), corporate bodies etc may also be involved in, and contribute to the development of additional components, such as:
 - i. Planting activities
 - ii. Essential amenities, such as drinking water facilities, seating arrangements for elderly population and nature trails and pathways.
 - iii. Informational display boards made of eco-friendly materials.

E. Mapping & Monitoring

1. The mapping and demarcation of boundaries will be carried out using a mobile-based application, wherein geocoordinates will be automatically recorded, with provisions for KML attachment and uploading of supporting documents for accurate spatial documentation and verification.
2. The National Authority has established a dedicated online Management Information System (MIS) for all schemes funded under the National Fund. This system shall also be utilized for the monitoring and implementation of the Astha Van Sanrakshan Yojana. The implementing agency responsible shall submit quarterly progress reports and prepare a comprehensive annual report covering all activities. The reports shall be accompanied by time stamped photographs and submitted online through the MIS portal of the Scheme. The release of installments shall be strictly based on the timely online submission of these progress reports. A project-wise completion report of the Astha Van Scheme shall also be submitted to the National Authority through the same portal for monitoring and evaluation purposes.
3. A Project Management Unit (PMU) for Monitoring and Evaluation has already established within the National Authority and shall be utilized for coordination and

monitoring of the Scheme.

4. States/UT's are advised to establish a two-tier monitoring and review mechanism for the Astha Vans. The Scheme shall be monitored through Astha Van Sanrakshan Committees at the State/UT's and District levels. The implementation of the scheme and its monitoring at the State level shall be the responsibility of the State Forest Department (SFD).

F. Scheme Budget

The scheme shall be fully funded from the National Fund under National CAMPA. Its implementation shall be governed by the general and specific conditions applicable to similar works undertaken from the National Fund under CAMPA, including those prescribed specifically for this Scheme.

Year-wise and Component-wise Financial Table (₹ in lakhs):

The programme envisages a total financial outlay of ₹3,000 crore over a period of five years to support conservation and restoration interventions covering nearly 15,000 sacred groves. At an indicative cost of ₹4 lakh per hectare, the estimated budget requirement for a 5-hectare intervention area is ₹20 lakh over the five-year project period.

Component	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Site Identification, Survey, Demarcation & Documentation	2.44	—	0.48	—	—	2.92 (14.6%)
Astha Van Sanrakshan Committee (AVSCs) Formation, Community Mobilisation & IEC and Administrative Cost	0.50	0.48	0.24	0.24	0.24	1.70 (8.5%)
Public utilities (Drinking water facilities, seating arrangements & trails etc)	1.48	0.48	0.24	0.24	—	2.44 (12.2%)
Ecological Restoration of degraded groves (ANR, SMC, Forest Fire prevention etc)	2.92	1.58	0.98	0.98	0.48	6.94 (34.7%)
Livelihood & Community Enterprise	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	2.40 (12%)
Capacity building, Training & exposure	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	2.40 (12%)
Monitoring, Evaluation & Documentation	—	0.24	0.24	0.36	0.36	1.20 (6%)
Total	8.30	3.74	3.14	2.78	2.04	20.00 (100%)

One Project Associate, with a monthly remuneration of ₹50,000, shall be engaged at the Forest Division level for coordination, monitoring, and community facilitation and will be supported from the Administrative Cost.

G. Expected Outcomes:

- 1. National Inventory and Spatial Database of Sacred Groves:** By the end of the project, an exhaustive, GIS-based national inventory of sacred groves across all States and Union Territories will be established. This will include spatially explicit polygon boundaries (shapefiles), area estimates, ecological attributes, degradation status, and associated botanical and cultural features. An open-access digital repository and portal will host interactive maps, state-wise dashboards, monitoring reports, and downloadable datasets, thereby strengthening research, documentation, transparency, policy formulation, and long-term management.
- 2. Restored and Ecologically Revitalised Sacred Groves:** Degraded sacred groves will be restored through scientifically designed and culturally informed interventions. Site-specific species inventories—emphasising medicinal plants, fruit-bearing species, and threatened taxa—will guide Artificial Regeneration (AR), Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR), and Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) measures.
- 3. Enhanced Livelihood Opportunities for Marginalised Communities:** Marginalised communities, particularly tribal groups and women associated with sacred groves, will benefit from diversified and sustainable livelihood options. Socio-economic surveys and product/service inventories will lead to the development of viable, market-aligned value chains and culturally rooted branding strategies. Transparent and equitable profit-sharing frameworks will be established and piloted in collaboration with NGOs, CSR bodies, and business groups, strengthening economic resilience, reducing vulnerability, and incentivising community-led conservation.
- 4. Institutionalised, Self-Sustaining Conservation Models (AVSC):** Functional Astha Van Sanrakshan Committees (AVSCs) will be constituted at State/UT levels with inclusive representation from tribal/village communities and State Forest Department. These committees will operationalise co-management arrangements that integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) with scientific management practices. Clear legal and institutional mechanisms for stewardship, co-governance, and conflict resolution will be established, providing a replicable model for community-based conservation of sacred groves.
- 5. Strengthened Community Capacity and Youth Leadership:** Through partnerships with NGOs, youth and local community members will be capacitated as custodians of sacred groves. Selected youth will receive comprehensive training on sacred grove ecology, cultural heritage, restoration practices, climate change, and sustainable livelihood pathways. As a result, a cadre of locally embedded eco-stewards, para-ecologists, and community entrepreneurs will emerge, driving community mobilisation, awareness, and long-term engagement in conservation and sustainable use.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The Proposal is placed for approval of Governing Body.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

Annual Report of National Authority CAMPA for FY 2024-25 for information of Governing Body.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NATIONAL AUTHORITY (CAMPA), IN THE APEX BODIES OF THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (ICFRE), DEHRADUN; WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA (WII), DEHRADUN, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT (IIFM) AND FOREST SURVEY OF INDIA (FSI), DEHRADUN

1. There are many institutions under the purview of MoEF&CC entrusted with the responsibility to carry out research and other important activities in the field of forestry and wildlife, ecology and restoration of ecoservices of forests, as schemes (under section 5(b)(iii) of the CAF Act 2016) with the support of National CAMPA Funds. Among them four institutions are very important namely-

- I. Indian Council of Forest Research and Education, Dehradun.
- II. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- III. Forest Survey of India, Dehradun.
- IV. IIFM BHOPAL

I) Indian Council of Forest Research and Education (ICFRE)-

There are 22 members as the Board of Governors of ICFRE.

The vision of ICFRE is as follows:

To achieve long-term ecological stability, sustainable development and economic security through conservation and scientific management of forest ecosystems.

The mission of ICFRE is as follows-

To generate, advance and disseminate scientific knowledge and technologies for ecological security, improved productivity, livelihoods enhancement and sustainable use of forest resources through forestry research and education.

Importantly, the National Authority CAMPA became functional on 30th September 2018. This indicates that during the formation of ICFRE, the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) did not exist, therefore the CEO National Authority CAMPA was not considered to be included in the Board of Governors of the ICFRE. The mission and vision of ICFRE almost align with the mandates of National Authority CAMPA. The National CAMPA supports numerous schemes of ICFRE as pilot schemes. It has been felt over the period that for better appraisal and take a wholistic view of the pilot scheme before proposing and seeking financial support from National CAMPA a considered opinion of Chief Executive Officer, National Authority would definitely contribute for better conception of schemes, implementation and evolving monitoring and evaluation mechanism for specific scheme therefore it is proposed to include Chief Executive Officer, National Authority CAMPA in the Board of Governors of ICFRE.

II) Wildlife Institute of India (WII)-

There are 19 members in the Governing Body of WII.

The vision of WII is as follows-

To develop the Institute as 'A Global Centre of Excellence' in the field of wildlife research, training and advocacy.

The mission of WII is as follows-

To nurture the development of wildlife science & promote its application in conservation in consonance with our cultural and socio-economic milieu.

The Institute predates the enactment and implementation of the “Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016”. Furthermore, the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (National CAMPA) extends financial support to various wildlife-related projects undertaken by WII. The central purpose of such funding is the conservation and enhancement of forest cover and wildlife resources across the Nation. In addition to Compensatory Afforestation, National CAMPA collaborates with 32 States and Union Territories on matters pertaining to wildlife conservation.

In order to synergize and systematize the investment of National funds in key initiatives implemented by WII, it would be appropriate for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Authority CAMPA to be nominated as a member of the Governing Body of the Institute. This inclusion would ensure that schemes of national significance receive due consideration and that informed decisions are made in the best interest of wildlife conservation in the country.

III) Forest Survey of India (FSI)

There are 24 members in the Technical Advisory Committee of FSI.

The vision and mission of FSI are as follows-

Forest Survey of India (FSI) is a premier national organization under the union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and is responsible for assessment and monitoring of the forest resources of the country on regular basis. In addition, it is engaged in providing training, research and extension services in the forestry sector. Established on 1st June 1981, Forest Survey of India succeeded the “Pre-investment Survey of Forest Resources” (PISFR), a project initiated in 1965 by Government of India with the sponsorship of FAO and UNDP. The main objective of PISFR was to ascertain the availability of raw material for establishment of wood-based industries in selected areas of the country. In its report in 1976, the National Commission on Agriculture (NCA) recommended for the creation of a National Forest Survey Organization for a regular, periodic and comprehensive forest resources survey of the country leading to creation of FSI. After a critical review of activities undertaken by FSI, Government of India redefined the mandate of FSI in 1986 in order to make it more relevant to the rapidly changing needs and aspirations of the country.

The mandates of the FSI are closely aligned with those of the National Authority, CAMPA. FSI plays a pivotal role in formulating the monitoring and evaluation framework, as well as in establishing of Third-Party Monitoring mechanism to oversee and assess CAMPA-related activities implemented by the States. Several schemes/projects of FSI have been supported by the National CAMPA as pilot projects. To ensure comprehensive appraisal and an integrated understanding of such pilot schemes/projects before seeking financial support, the considered opinion of the Chief Executive Officer, National Authority CAMPA, would significantly aid in improving the design, implementation, and monitoring & evaluation framework of these initiatives. Accordingly, it is proposed to include the Chief Executive Officer, National Authority CAMPA, as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Forest Survey of India.

IV) Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM)

Vision and Mission

The Institute, being sectoral in nature, imparts education in Forest Management, which is a judicious mix of Forestry, Environment, Social and Management sciences. It constantly endeavours to identify the problems of the community, especially the forest dwellers through need-based research and serves

as a reservoir of knowledge in the area of forest management to catalyze integration of modern scientific and indigenous knowledge, suitable to the Indian context. The Vision of the Institute, as identified in its Perspective Plan 2006-16, is:

“To be among the leading international institutions in the area of environment, forest and development management and be respected, both nationally as well as internationally, for its outstanding contributions in the fields of education, training, research, consultancy and thought leadership.”

The above vision is translated into the following **Mission** statements:

- To serve different stakeholders of Environment, Forestry and Development sectors and the society in general, through the development of knowledge and its dissemination, human resource development through education and training activities and providing assistance in formulation and advocacy of relevant policies and strategies.
- To be a national institution with an international perspective and outreach.
- To build a culture of excellence, achievement, cooperation and service within a framework of strong ethical patterns of behaviour informed by universal values.

Number of schemes which are under implementation by IIFM are funded by National Authority CAMPA. The IIFM being premier institute in forest management needs to be in tune with expectation of management needs of various states and UTs, NA CAMPA IS IN REGULAR DIALOGUE WITH STATES AND UTs which will help IIFM and forestry at large to remain versatile in the times to come. Therefore, it would be appropriate for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Authority CAMPA to be nominated as a member of the Governing Body of the Institute. This inclusion would ensure that schemes of national significance receive due consideration and that informed decisions are made in the best interest of forest management in the country, Therefore, it is most appropriate to consider this proposal.

Proposal: In view of the above stated ratiocination and in accordance with the provisions in sections 5(b)(iii) and 14(1)(iv) of the CAF Act 2016; it is imperative to establish a synergy with the National Authority CAMPA in all decision-making processes at the highest level of these institutions. Consequently, the National Authority must be represented at the CEO level in these apex bodies. Consequent to the approval of this proposal by Governing Body of the National Authority, the Ministry will be requested to effectuate this decision.

Decision Sought from Governing Body: The above mentioned proposal is submitted for approval of the Governing Body.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

ANY OTHER AGENDA WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR
