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भारत सरकार

Government of India

राष्ट्रीय प्रतिपूरक वनरोपण निधि प्रबंधन एवं योजना प्राधिकरण

National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

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दिनांक \Dated:09th December, 2024

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible incomes (MISHTI): Joint guidelines for convergence of mission MISHTI and Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for promotion of mangrove plantation – reg.

Enclosed please find the Joint Guidelines signed by the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Secretary, Department of Rural Development for convergence of Mission MISHTI and Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for promotion of mangrove plantation with an integrated development approach with Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for taking appropriate action.

Encl: as above



(Subhash Chandra)

Chief Executive Officer

To:

1. The Principal Secretary, Rural Development, Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Andaman Nicobar Islands.
2. The Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Andaman Nicobar Islands.
3. The PCCF & HoFF/ Head of Forest Departments of Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Andaman Nicobar Islands.
4. The Chief Executive Officer, CAMPA, Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Andaman Nicobar Islands.

Copy also forwarded for kind information to:

1. The Chief Secretaries/Advisors to LGs/Administrators of the States /UTs of Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Andaman Nicobar Islands.

SHAILESH KUMAR SINGH
Secretary
Government of India
Department of Rural Development



LEENA NANDAN
Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and
Climate Change

DO # 1/28/2024-NA/NCAMPA/MGNREGS

December 09, 2024

Dear Colleague,

MISHTI: "**Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes**" has been announced in para 85 of the Union Budget of 2023-24 to promote and conserve mangroves as unique, natural ecosystem having very high biological productivity and carbon sequestration potential, besides working as a bio-shield. The Mission objectives also strengthen our efforts to address impacts of climate change in terms of green economy in convergence with other schemes and Programmes, prominently MGNREGS.

2. MISHTI aims to preserve and enhance the sustainability of the coastal habitats like mangroves, salt marshes and mudflats leading to ecological resilience of the country's coastal ecosystems bringing socio-economic benefits to coastal communities.

3. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a demand driven scheme under Ministry of Rural Development, which also aims for efficient use of natural resources through inter-sectoral approach for, inter alia, strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor.

4. Now, to further synergize these efforts and to collectively address the climate change concerns, convergence guidelines of MISHTI and Mahatma Gandhi NREGS have been framed (**copy enclosed**). These guidelines outline the context of convergence and set out the approach to be adopted to strengthen the coordination at field level.

5. We trust that this integrated development approach with climate change adaptation and mitigation concerns will also benefit Mahatma Gandhi NREGS leading to better quality planning and selection of works capable of generating sustainable employment.

[Shailesh Kumar Singh]

Secretary,

Department of Rural Development

[Leena Nandan]

Secretary,

Ministry of Environment, Forest and
Climate Change

encl: as above

To

The Chief Secretaries/Advisors to LGs/Administrators in States/UTs

JOINT GUIDELINES FOR CONVERGENCE OF MISSION MISHTI AND MAHATMA GANDHI NREGS FOR PROMOTION OF MANGROVE PLANTATION

These guidelines outline the modalities of convergence between the MISHTI: "**Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes**" and **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS)** so as to enhance multiple ecosystem services and achieve resilience to climate change of the country's coastal ecosystems bringing socio-economic benefits to local communities.

1. Background

Mangrove forests have more capacity to store carbon, provide breeding grounds for marine biodiversity and support global fish populations. The Government has taken a number of steps to protect and enhance mangrove forests in coastal States/Union Territories through promotional as well as regulatory measures. Union Budget 2023-24 announced 'Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)' to promote and conserve mangroves as unique, natural eco-system having very high biological productivity and carbon sequestration potential, besides working as a bio shield. Accordingly, MISHTI was launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change on World Environment Day i.e., 5th June 2023

Mission MISHTI has been started after India joined the 'Mangrove Alliance for Climate' during the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Egypt in November 2022. The Mission aims to preserve and enhance the sustainability of the coastal habitats like mangroves, sea grasses, coral reefs, salt marshes and mudflats leading to ecological resilience of the country's coastal ecosystems bringing socio-economic benefits to coastal communities. It is being implemented in nine Coastal States and four Union Territories.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a demand driven scheme administered by Ministry of Rural Development, aims at assuring unskilled wage employment up to 100 days to rural families through creation of durable and productive assets both at the community level as also for selected category of individual beneficiaries through development of land, water and trees. It also aims for efficient use of natural resources through inter-sectoral approach for, inter alia, strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor.

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2. Mission MISHTI under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Mission MISHTI aims to enhance resilience of Indian coast and ensure the protection of coastal life, livelihood and infrastructure against the climate change consequences such as sea-level rise through conservation and management of coastal habitats. It aims to increase the mangrove cover to the extent of 540 square km areas across 9 coastal states and four Union Territories in five years (2023-2028).

Categorization of targeted areas for this programme:

- a. Mangrove plantation/restoration of gap or degraded areas or accretion areas,
- b. Mangrove restoration of mudflat areas (areas that had historical mangroves),
- c. Mangrove restoration in abandoned aquaculture ponds & salt pans, and
- d. Rehabilitation of areas infested with invasive or alien species having mangrove potential.

The Year wise work plan for 5 years of cycle for the activities under the Mission MISTHI is detailed below.

Category	Year	Type of Activities
Core Activity	Year-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 & Exit
	Year-5	Exit
Support Activities	Year 1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Livelihood Diversification• Capacity Building• Research and Development• Publicity, Media and Outreach• Monitoring and Evaluation• Ecotourism with the help of SHGs

The core activities of MISSION MISHTI include-

- a. Mapping and delineation of target intervention areas
- b. Preparation of inventory based on scientific assessment of topography, hydrology etc.
- c. Nursery Development
- d. Mangrove Restoration/Plantation

In addition, the support activities, in achieving its mandate and include –

- a. Livelihood Diversification
- b. Capacity Building
- c. Research and Development
- d. Publicity, Media and Outreach
- e. Monitoring and Evaluation
- f. Ecotourism with the help of SHGs

3. Provisions under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS:

Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven scheme with a bottom-up approach of implementation. The works to be taken up under the scheme should be approved and prioritized by the Gram Sabha at the Gram Panchayat level.

As per Schedule I of Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, Section 4 (3), Para 4(1), I. Category: A : Public works relating to Natural Resource Management: (v) Afforestation: tree plantation and horticulture plantation in common and forest lands, road margins, canal bunds, tank foreshore and coastal belt and II. Category: B (Community assets or Individual assets) for vulnerable sections (only for households in Paragraph 5): (ii) Improving livelihood through horticulture, sericulture, plantation and farm forestry are permissible works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Mangrove plantation is a permissible work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS and may be taken up in the rural areas on community and individual lands by the States/UTs subject to all non-negotiables and processes of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Permissible works may be taken up as per following provisions under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS:

- (i) Mangrove plantation may be taken up in Common/Forest/Individual land as per the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS guidelines.
- (ii) All the community plantation works are generally included with its maintenance cost of plants for 3 to 5 years at the time of initiation.
- (iii) Raising of Mangrove plants/seedlings in Nurseries may be taken up as per the processes and procedures under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS
- (iv) The expenditure including wage and material for the permissible works & activities may be covered under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS subject to all non-negotiables and processes under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS

The list of relevant works permissible under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is placed at **Annexure-A**.

Convergence Approach

Convergence of Mission MISHTI with Mahatma Gandhi NREGS will bring coordination in conservation and development of mangrove forests. This would improve livelihood opportunities and generate green employment in the coastal communities. Also, such a convergence will optimize more efficient use of resources due to better coordination between different schemes.

This convergence approach aims to:

- (i) Strengthen mangrove plantations to combat coastal erosion, protect biodiversity, and absorb carbon, contributing to climate resilience.
- (ii) Utilize the workforce and infrastructure provided under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS to implement large-scale mangrove restoration and plantation projects.
- (iii) Ensure sustainable livelihoods through community engagement, as both programs focus on long-term ecological and socio-economic benefits.

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The overall responsibility for implementation of Programme vests with the State Forest Department.

4. The role of the Forest Department as a Programme Implementing Agency (PIA) for convergence works under Mission MISHTI:

- (i) The Forest Department shall be a Programme Implementing (PIA) for the mangrove plantation to be taken up under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS as per the processes and procedures of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS
- (ii) The Forest Department as a Programme Implementing (PIA) will do the selection of species of mangrove plants.
- (iii) The Forest Department may take up the work of 'Raising of Nursery' for mangrove plantation as per the processes and procedures of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS
- (iv) The Forest Department as a Programme Implementing Agency (PIA) will do the selection of land for mangrove plantation on Individual/Common/Forest lands as per the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS guidelines.
- (v) The Forest Department may plan the work of mangrove plantation as per the processes and procedures of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS
- (vi) For the works planned to be implemented by the PIA, the approval is to be obtained from the Block/ Intermediate/District Panchayat, depending on the level of engagement. The approved works should be communicated to the Gram Panchayat for inclusion in the Shelf of works.
- (vii) The Gram Panchayat is the custodian of the shelf of projects and the PIA should report their plans to the Gram Panchayat, which should duly incorporate those in the annual plan of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.
- (viii) Based on the approved shelf of works, the PIA shall prepare the detailed technical designs, drawings and estimates.
- (ix) Administrative sanction of the works would be given by the DPC, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS or any other competent authority as per the financial delegation authorized by the State Government and the technical sanction will be made by the competent official of the Forest Department

- (x) Based on the Technical sanction and the administrative approval, the PIA shall implement the work as per the processes and procedures laid down under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS
- (xi) Under no circumstance, there shall be duplication or double counting of works under different schemes. The Forest officials involved in planning should ensure this aspect while preparing the tentative plans for the works under different schemes.

5. This convergence shall be implemented as per the following guidelines:

- (i) Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven programme with bottom-up approach. The planning should be done as per the processes and procedures under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.
- (ii) Only the works permissible under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA should be taken up under Convergence.
- (iii) All these works under convergence should be carried out only in rural areas in common/forest/individual land as per Mahatma Gandhi NREGS guidelines.
- (iv) For the protection of Block Plantations, live fencing should be preferred, for protection of Individual plants, tree guards prepared from locally available plant material like Bamboo etc. should be preferred. Metal/barbered wire fencing and *creation of forest fire lines are not a permissible work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.*
- (v) Activities for flood protection, storm water discharge may be taken up as per permissible work list of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.
- (vi) The relevant provisions mentioned in Paragraph- 5 of the Schedule - I of the Act need to adhere to in selection and prioritizing individual beneficiaries.
- (vii) The overall cost of material component including the wages of the skilled and semi- skilled workers shall not exceed forty percent at the district level.
- (viii) All processes and non-negotiables of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA would apply (i.e. execution of works through job card holders, non-engagement of contractors and labour displacement machines, maintenance of labour material ratio 60:40 at the district level, social audit, transparency and accountability, etc.)
- (ix) The Department of Rural Development will issue advisories for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for giving priority to Mangrove plantation & other related permissible works and activities from time to time.

- (x) The officials of Forest Department should regularly monitor the progress and quality of mangrove plantation.
- (xi) The District Forest Officer (DFO) will monitor the operational, physical and financial progress of the convergence activities.

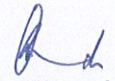
6. Monitoring Strategies for convergence

- (i) At the State/UT level, the monitoring of convergence should be done through the State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC), headed by the Chief Secretary of the State along with the in charge of the Forest Department (or the head of MISHTI Cell at the State level) and Mahatma Gandhi NREGS at the State/UT level.
- (ii) At District level, the monitoring of convergence should be done by the district-level Coordination Committee (DLCC) for convergence headed by the collector/DPC along with the District Forest Officer (DFO) and the Additional DPC (ADPC).



[Shailesh Kumar Singh]
Secretary,

Department of Rural Development



[Leena Nandan]
Secretary,

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

Annexure A

Sl.No.	Permissible Works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS
1	Afforestation of wasteland Forestry trees for individual
2	Block Plantation of Forestry Trees in Fields for Individuals
3	Along the coast Line Plantation of Forestry Trees for Individuals
4	Boundary Line Plantation of Forestry Trees for Individuals
5	Wasteland Line Plantation of Forestry Trees for Individuals
6	Wastelands Block Plantation of Forestry Trees for Individuals
7	Along the coast Afforestation using forestry Trees for Community
8	Along the coast Block Plantation of Forestry Trees for Community
9	Along the coast Line Plantation of Forestry Trees for Community
10	Block Plantation of Forestry Trees in Fields for Community
11	Boundary Line Plantation of Forestry Trees for Community
12	Canal Line Plantation of Forestry Trees for Community
13	Road side line plantation of Forestry Trees for Community
14	Wasteland Block Plantation of Forestry Trees for Community
15	Raising of Nursery for Individuals
16	Raising of Nursery for Groups
17	Raising of Nursery for Community