

**Minutes of the fifth meeting of Monitoring Group (MG) of National Authority  
held at 11:00 am on 02.09.2021 through VC.**

The fifth meeting of the Monitoring Group (MG) was held on 02.09.2021 at 11:00 am through VC. The list of the participants may be seen at Annexure I.

2. At the outset, DG FSI welcomed all the members of Monitoring Group; special invitees from CAMPA, SU Division of MoEFCC & NIC; and senior officials from Madhya Pradesh Forest Department & Odisha Forest Department. Thereafter, DG (FSI) provided brief overview about the creation and mandate of the Monitoring Group. He apprised the invitees about the proceedings held during previous four meetings of MG.

3. Shri A. K. Bansal, Member of the MG gave a detailed presentation about the creation of a Monitoring Group (MG), under the provision of sub-clause (3) of clause 9 of the CAF Act, 2016, by the MoEF&CC and its mandated activities i.e. carrying out the concurrent monitoring and evaluation of the works implemented by SFDs by utilizing the funds of CAMPA/CAF. He mentioned about preamble of CAF Act 2016, types of funds received under afforestation, utilization of the funds and interest accrued on deposits in state fund as per the CAF rule 2018. He informed about the constitution and mandate of the Monitoring Group. He distinguished between Monitoring and evaluation and explained about their parameters. He briefly described about the expectation of the Monitoring Group (copy enclosed).

4. Thereafter the State Forest Departments apprised the MG and special invitees about the long term vision of CAMPA activities in the State, number of activities undertaken since inception, internal monitoring plan, its execution and results thereof along with improvement based on findings. Odisha and Madhya Pradesh SFDs made detailed presentations, brief of which is given below:

A. Odisha forest department was represented by Shri S. K. Rathore, PCCF (HoFF), Odisha SFD alongwith Odisha CAMPA Division team. Shri P. K. Jha, CEO (CAMPA) made a detailed presentation about the activities/work (overall scenario of work from 2009-10 to 2021-22) undertaken under CAMPA (CAF) in the last 10 years. The highlights of the presentation are given below:

- Odisha state has improved 89.7% quality of forest cover by increasing its canopy density, protection of existing forest and wild life biodiversity.
- Total number of plantation assets created under CAMPA are 58656 in Odisha state. Out of which 41998 are GPS plantation assets, 747 CA plantation site, 6736 non-CA and 5716 other work sites.
- Number of activities undertaken under CAMPA such as afforestation activities- Ama Jangal Yojana, Wildlife Management, forest protection, infrastructure, training and capacity building and digitalization of forest boundary, strengthening of GIS cell and research activities, since inception.
- All these activities details (plantation polygon - CA, non-CA, number of plantation sites) are have been updated on OFMS platform.

- Statutory audit of the works up to 31.03.2021 has been completed by AG office, Odisha
- CTRAN Consulting Ltd, Bhubaneshwar for the year 2009-10 to 2016-17, has done third party evaluation of the work. All the information related to this is available on website publically.
- SFDs raised a concern on timelines of released of APO funds. Year marking of funds protection for plantation sites.

DG, FSI informed that as per the e-Green watch portal 51,900 polygon uploaded by Odisha state out of which 8,167 polygons were observed as closed (geometrically) and other are deficient in some respect which indicates that roughly 15% polygons are ascertainable according to geometry. He stated that most of the area figures presented by the State are under ANR.

B. Madhya Pradesh forest department was represented by Shri Sunil Agrawal, PCCF, Madhya Pradesh SFD alongwith Madhya Pradesh CAMPA Division team. Shri Ramesh Srivastava, CEO (CAMPA) made a detailed presentation about the activities/work (overall scenario of work from 2009-10 to 2021-22) undertaken under CAMPA (CAF) in the last 10 years. A brief of the same is given below:

- Number of activities undertaken under CAMPA such as afforestation activities, Catchment Area Treatment, Development of city forest, infrastructure development, wild life habitat improvement, improvement of water resources, construction of forest roads and forest fire etc. SFD is also running a capacity building program for forest staff.
- Provided the expenditure details on the activities undertaken under CAMPA such as 42% on CA, PCA & medical plantation, 0.15% on catchment area treatment, 0.20% on wildlife management and 56.65% on NPV.
- 400 plantation projects are being maintained. Out of which, 212 plantation sites are more than 5 years old.
- Statutory audit of the works up to 2016-17 has been completed by AG office, Madhya Pradesh and for further years (2017-18 to 2019-20) it is under process.
- Internal audit is conducted every year by account officer.
- Third party evaluation has been done from 2009-10 to 2015-16.
- Internal monitoring is conducted twice a year.
- SFD also conducts peripheral activities along with plantation activity but there are a lot of restrictions.
- SFD raised a concern on timelines of released of APO funds. Year marking of funds protection for plantation sites.

DG, FSI informed that as per e-Green watch portal information 5600 polygon uploaded by Madhya Pradesh state out of which 1300 polygon were observed as closed (geometrically) and other are deficient in some respect which indicates that roughly 22% polygons are ascertainable according to geometry.

5. After the detailed presentation by the two invitee State Forest Departments, deliberations among the MG, Joint CEO (CAMPA), SU Division and SFDs resulted in the following decisions:

- SFDs informed that the details of the all the activities undertaken under CAMPA is available on respective State portal. The MG asserted that SFDs should provide the all the information on e-Green Watch portal also. There should be seamless integration between the SFD portal and e-Green watch.
- Sh. A. K. Bansal requested SFDs to provide a detailed note on the internal and third party evaluation strategy, sampling intensity used by the SFD. The abstract of third part evaluation report, parameters of evaluation should also be reported to MG as early as possible. He further requested inputs of SFDs on the organizational strategy for maintenance of nursery, formal handing over system etc.
- On the issue of concern on timelines of released of APO funds, Sh. A. K. Bansal and Shri Ashish Srivastava suggested SFDs to submit a detail note to the MG about the proposed, approved & delayed funds and impact of delayed funds on the work/activities. The MG will put this matter in front of National Authority for necessary inputs.
- Further, MG members asked the SFDs to apprise MG on any important activity (as per the APOs, which SFDs intends to conduct under the CAF rule) which has been declined by the National Authority. In that case, MG may discuss and bring the same to the notice of National Authority. If required, MG may advise to clarify the same in future circumstances.
- DG, FSI informed about the progress and status of the decisions taken in the fourth of MG. As decided in the fourth meeting of MG, FSI received a format (format II-Area wise number of plantation sites) prepared by Sh. A. K. Bansal. This new format was circulated with the earlier format (format I- decided in the second meeting) to NIC, Bhopal. It has been decided in the meeting of MG that NIC Bhopal will provide the data in the prescribed formats w.r.t. six States having maximum allocation of CAMPA but the information was still awaited.
- FSI was parallel trying to get the requisite information, as required by MG, from State Forest Departments (SFDs), and as a result, FSI could get partial information in both the formats (format I&II) only from 9 states. Further, we have received format I only from 11 states.
- MG asserted that despite a number of attempts by DG FSI to request States to provide information, the formats are still awaited from large number of States. As a result, it is very difficult for MG to evaluate and perform its activities.
- MG opined that they are feeling severely constrained in disposing of their duties for want of data. Realizing the limitations of receiving the data from NIC/ SFDs, MG recommended that as National CAMPA releases the fund to State Forest Departments (SFDs) on the basis of Annual Plan Operation (APO). The National Authority should take strict action on the states which are not providing the requisite information.
- MG directed Joint CEO (CAMPA) to request all the States to provide information sought by MG in its earlier meetings. MG asserted that the

requisite information must be supplied in both excel and PDF formats. MG also requested NIC representative to expedite the required information, to be supplied by NIC.

- Regarding setting up of a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) for assisting MG, Shri Sanjay Kumar Ojha, Joint CEO, National Authority assured that the PMU will be envisaged housed in National Authority, to assist the MG in performance of its functions. For this, he requested FSI to provide an assessment and details regarding qualification, specialization, experience and structure of assistance of the personals of the PMU and will send the proposal to National CAMPA.
- DG, FSI asserted that as per the sub-clause (3) of clause 9 of the CAF Act, 2016, DG, FSI is one of six expert member of the MG. And as per the sub clause (3) of clause (19) of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rule, 2018, DG, FSI is member secretary. The National CAMPA should release a notification for the declaration of the Chairperson of the MG.
- As per the clause 9(1) of the CAF Act, 2016, the MG is to assist the governing body of the National Authority in performance of its functions and powers. The National Authority should define the monitoring protocol/process for the MG.
- The concerned SFDs also monitored and evaluate their work on different levels. The role of the MG should be limited in case of field visit monitoring.
- DG, FSI will attempt a process for how to access on overall mandate of the MG regarding evaluation, monitoring parameters, sampling strategy, sampling intensity, action, findings, third party evaluation and system function.

The meeting ended with thanks to all the members and special invitees.

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## Annexure I

### List of officers present in the fifth meeting of Monitoring Group held at 11.00 am on 02.09.2021

1. The following members of the Monitoring Group (MG) attended the meeting:

- a) Shri Pankaj Agrawal, DG, FSI
- b) Shri A. K. Bansal, Retd. ADG, MoEF&CC (through VC)
- c) Shri A. K. Srivastava, Retd. ADG, MoEF&CC (through VC)

In addition to above, following special invitees also attended the meeting:

2. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, New Delhi

- a) Shri Sanjay Kumar Ojha, Joint CEO, National Authority
- b) Shri Suneesh Buxy, IGF, MoEFCC, New Delhi.
- c) Shri Siam Khan Muan Guite, AIGF, MoEFCC, New Delhi.

3. Forest Survey of India, Dehradun

- a) Shri Sushant Sharma, JD (TFI), FSI, Dehradun
- b) Shri Dinesh Kumar, DDG (FI), FSI, Dehradun
- c) Ms. Meenakshi Joshi, JD (FGD), FSI, Dehradun
- d) Shri Kamal Pandey, DD (FI), FSI, Dehradun
- e) Shri Abhay Saxena, AD (FGD), FSI, Dehradun
- f) Shri Yogesh Bansal, DPA, FSI, Dehradun
- g) Ms. Krupa Saini, DPA, FSI, Dehradun

4. Odisha Forest Department (through VC)

- a) Shri S. K. Rathore, PCCF (HoFF), Odisha
- b) Shri P. K. Jha, CEO (CAMP), Madhya Pradesh

5. Madhya Pradesh Forest Department (through VC)

- a) Shri Sunil Agarwal, PCCF, Madhya Pradesh
- b) Shri Ramesh Srivastava, CEO (CAMP), Odisha

6. National Informatics Center, New Delhi (through VC)

- a) Ms. Rajni Batra, Sr. Technical Director, NIC

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