

Minutes of sixth Meeting of the Monitoring Group of the National Authority held on 27.10.2022 at Forest Survey of India, Dehradun

The sixth meeting of the Monitoring Group (MG) of the National Authority was held at Forest Survey of India under the chairmanship of Shri Anoop Singh, DG, FSI. The list of the members and other officials attended the meeting has been given in Annexure-I.

At the outset, Shri Anoop Singh, DG FSI welcomed all the members and officials who were present in the meeting. The following members of the MG have attended the meeting physically whereas Shri Vinay Jangid-Member Social sector has attended the meeting on virtual mode.

1. Dr. Subhash Ashutosh, Member-Remote Sensing & GIS
2. Prof. Madhoolika Agarwal, Member-Forests
3. Shri Vaibhav Chaturvedi, Member-Wildlife
4. Prof Ankur Patwardhan, Member-Environment

One of the member Dr. Madhu Verma- Member Economist could not attend the meeting. However, she was briefed about the meeting on 28.11.2022 and given all the presentations.

As it was the first meeting of the newly constituted committee, DG FSI has requested all the members to introduce themselves. Thereafter, DG, FSI has requested CEO of National Authority to give his initial remark on the activities being carried out from the funds of National Authority. After the address of CEO, each agenda item was discussed in the meeting.

Agenda item: CAMPA activities implemented by States/UTs under CAMPA Fund

Shri R. Raghu Prasad, IGF& Joint CEO, National Authority has given a detailed presentation on various activities funded by National and State CAMPA Authorities and their functioning. He also apprised the members about various schemes funded to different institutions from the National Fund. A brief historical perspective of CAMPA was also given by him. A copy of the presentation is attached for ready reference.

Agenda item: Brief overview of Monitoring Group including action taken on previous meetings

Shri Prakash Lakhchaura, Deputy Director General, FSI has given a brief presentation on the mandate of the MG and discussion and decisions taken during the last five meetings. The purpose of this presentation was to apprise the members of newly constituted committee about the development taken so far.

Agenda item No.3: Monitoring of CAMPA Activities by IIFM, Bhopal

Shri R. Ravichandran, Director, IIFM gave a presentation on the proposal of establishing a Project Management Consultancy unit (PMC) and National Monitoring and Evaluation Cell (NMEC). The PMC is proposed to be placed at the office of National Authority and NMEC will be placed at IIFM, Bhopal. The mandate proposed to NMEC will be national level sample survey for rapid assessment of compensatory afforestation carried out across different States/UTs. He further explained about the scope of PMC and NMEC,

and activities to be carried out. He also presented about the past work carried out by IIFM related to monitoring and evaluation of CAMPA activities.

Agenda item No.4: Monitoring of CAMPA Activities by ICFRE, Dehradun

Ms.Vijaya Ratre from ICFRE made a presentation on Monitoring of CAMPA Activities being carried out by the ICFRE. She informed that at the request of the State Forest Departments, ICFRE has carried out the monitoring of CAMPA plantations in the State of Punjab, Uttarkhand, Delhi, Chandigarh and Bihar. She explained the methodology used for monitoring, parameters measured, data collection formats and lesson learned.

Agenda item No.5: Discussion on mandate of Monitoring Group and any other matters

The mandate of the MG as given by CAF Act 2016 was discussed at length. Shri Anoop Singh, DG FSI made a brief presentation on issues related to works flow of monitoring, issues related to monitoring of plantation and assets, financial monitoring and reporting process to be followed by the MG. Dr. Subhash Ashutosh, Ex-DG FSI and member of the newly constituted MG has made a presentation on salient points of the mandate of the MG and highlighted the issues of information required for monitoring and evaluation, working of the MG, challenges before the MG and support system required for the MG. The Monitoring of CAMPA activities being done by IIFM and ICFRE was also discussed by the MG. The officials of the National Authority informed the MG that there are several agencies across the country who are involved in the Monitoring work. The members of the committee were of the view that there should not be any duplicity in monitoring works of the MG and other agencies involved in the monitoring work. For this purpose, it was suggested that a National workshop of all the agencies involved in the Monitoring of CAMPA activities may be organised by FSI at Dehradun or Delhi with the financial support of National Authority of CAMPA. This will help in designing of a common format and parameters for the monitoring of CAMPA activities across the country. The MG has also discussed about establishing of a Monitoring cell at FSI to assist the MG to accomplish its mandate.

The following decisions were taken in the meeting

1. A Monitoring cell will be set up at Forest survey of India to assist the Monitoring Group. The cell will have a Senior Technical Consultant, about 10 Technical Associates and 4 secretarial staff. FSI will make a proposal to this effect including the details of manpower and budget and send the proposal to National Authority of CAMPA. National Authority will place the proposal of proposed Cell before the Governing Body/executive committee for the approval. The necessary budget required for Monitoring cell will be made available by the National Authority on an annual basis. The monitoring Cell will further hire Agencies/Consultants for financial audit etc.
2. The MG will start monitoring only after the creation of the proposed Cell at FSI.
3. A complete database of all the activities done by the SFDs and national institutions by utilising the funds under National and State Authority will be made available to

MG by the National Authority. This will form the basis for designing of the monitoring protocol by MG.

4. MG can have special invitees as and when required. The travel support of the such special invitees will be borne from the budget of the Monitoring cell.
5. MG has observed that the mandate given to IIFM is similar to the mandate given to MG. if it is so, there will be duplicity of efforts. MG is of the view that, IIFM should focus only on the third party monitoring.
6. It was observed that the parameters used for monitoring were different for IIFM and for ICFRE. There is no standardization on the monitoring procedures which will lead to creation of issues when we try to combine these databases later on to arrive at some meaningful conclusion.
7. To begin with, items that need to be monitored need to be listed out, criteria (preferably quantifiable) for judging performance need to be identified, process of measurement needs to be finalized and common formats worked out. The % of monitoring needs to be decided and then the agencies monitoring, whether hired by the States or National Authority or Monitoring Group are assigned monitoring sites. Care should be taken that repetition of the same site is avoided as far as possible as any monitoring cost by any agency has to be borne from CAMPA.
8. In order to have a common data collection formats and parameters required for monitoring of CAMPA activities across the country, a national level workshop of all the monitoring agencies will be conducted by FSI with the financial support of National Authority of CAMPA. The workshop will give an insight to MG about the current monitoring activities, parameters monitored, their methodologies etc and will help in designing a common format for data collection and parameters to be monitored. Further, the MG will come to know how different agencies can be roped in the monitoring task given to MG.
9. The different actions points emerged after the meeting are given as follows:
 - **Action point 1:** Preparation of a proposal for creating a Monitoring Cell of MG at FSI and submission of the same to National Authority(**Action: FSI**)
 - **Action Point 2:** Approval of the proposal of Monitoring Cell by National Authority and disbursement of fund (**Action: National Authority of CAMPA**)
 - **Action Point 3:** Grand Listing of all the works and Categorization of Works or Grouping of Works done by utilizing the funds of National/State CAMPA authorities (**Action: National Authority of CAMPA**)
 - **Action Point 4:** Organisation of a national level workshop of all the monitoring agencies by FSI with the financial support of National Authority of **CAMPA after the Monitoring Cell starts functioning** to finalise the monitoring parameters and data collection formats (**Action: FSI, National Authority of CAMPA**) .
 - **Action Point 5:** Preperation of monitoring protocols by the members of MG after the national workshop (**Action: Members of MG**)

The meeting was ended with giving thanks to the chair and all the members. Special thanks are due to officers of National Authority of CAMPA, who briefed the monitoring group on the activities and for setting the context for discussion.

List of officers present in the sixth meeting of Monitoring Group held at 09.00 am on 27.10.2022 at Forest Survey of India, Dehradun.

1. Members of the Monitoring Group (MG)
 - a) Shri Anoop Singh, Director General, Forest Survey of India, Dehradun.
 - b) Dr. Subhash Ashutosh, Ex. Director General, Forest Survey of India, Dehradun.
 - c) Prof. Madhoolika Agarwal, Prof& Coordinator ISLS, Dean Science, BHU, Varanasi.
 - d) Prof. Ankur Patwardhan, Dept. of Biodiversity, MES Abasaheb Gaware College, Pune.
 - e) Shri Vaibhav Chaturvedi, Member, Monitoring Group of National Authority.
 - f) Dr. Madhu Varma, Ex-Professor IIFM, Chief Economist at World Resources Institute, India
 - g) Shri Vinay Jangid Sharma, Member, Monitoring Group of National Authority.
2. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, New Delhi
 - a) Shri Subhash Chandra, CEO, National Authority.
 - b) Shri R. Raghu Prasad, IGF & Jt. CEO, National Authority.
 - c) Dr. S. D. Singh, IFS Retd, Consultant, National Authority.
 - d) Dr. Manjunathan, Consultant, National Authority.
3. Forest Survey of India, Dehradun
 - a) Shri Prakash Lakhchaura, DDG, Forest Survey of India, Dehradun.
 - b) Shri Kamal Pandey, DD, Forest Survey of India, Dehradun.
 - c) Shri Abhay Kumar Saxena, DD (I/C), Forest Survey of India, Dehradun.
4. Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun
 - a) Shri R. P. Singh, ICFRE, Dehradun
 - b) Ms. Vijaya Ratre, ICFRE, Dehradun
5. Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal
 - a) Dr. R. Ravichandran, Director, IIFM, Bhopal.
