

NA-15/30/2020-NA
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(National Authority)

Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 15th September, 2020

To,

PCCF-cum-Principal Secretary
Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management Department
Government of Sikkim
Forest Secretariat
Deorali - 737102
Gangtok, Sikkim

Sub: Annual Plan of Operation for the year 2020-21 of Sikkim State Authority-reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to letter No A-4(2016-17) FCA/FEWMD 25 dated 29.06.2020 and subsequent letters of Government of Sikkim on the above mentioned subject and to convey the approval of the Executive Committee of the National Authority under Section 15 (1) (i) of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016 for the Annual Plan of Operation – Sikkim (2020-21) at a total cost of ₹ 66.90 crore (Rupees sixty-six crore and ninety lakh only) out of proposed outlay of ₹ 69.03 crore recommended by the State Steering Committee for carrying out approved activities during the current financial year from the “State Compensatory Afforestation Fund – Sikkim” created under Section 4 of CAF Act, 2016.

2. The APO was discussed in the 8th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority held on 25th August, 2020. The component wise approval accorded by the Executive Committee is as under:

In Rs crore			
Sr No.	Major Activity	Proposed Amount	Approved Amount
1.	Mandatory works as per CAF Act, 2016	23.48	23.48
2.	Activities as per Rule 5(2) of the CAF Rules, 2018	24.85	22.92
3.	Activities as per Rule 5(3) of the CAF Rules, 2018	6.22	6.02
	Total NPV	31.07	28.94
4.	Activities as per Rules 6(a) of the CAF Rules, 2018	8.69	8.69
5.	Activities as per Rules 6(b) of the CAF Rules, 2018	5.79	5.79
	Total Interest	14.48	14.48
	Grand Total (1+2+3+4+5)	69.03	66.90

3. Following inadmissible activities were not agreed to:

- i. Procurement of drone (Rs 0.10 crore);

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- ii. Incentivizing village/communities for protection against forest fire under the participatory forest management approach (Rs 0.01 crore).

4. Following activities were deferred due to insufficient details:

- i. Identification, selection and marking of mother trees (Rs. 0.10 crore);
- ii. Preparation of standards of operation (SOP) (Rs. 0.04 crore)
- iii. Lahnkuri patch plantation (*Fraxinus Sikkimensis*) (Rs. 0.01 crore)
- iv. Malagiri patch plantation (Rs. 0.02 crore)
- v. Construction of Patrolling path for protection of plantation and forest (Rs.1.40 crore)
- vi. Awareness camps (Rs. 0.12 crore)
- vii. Publicity in print media (Rs. 0.05 crore)
- viii. Publicity in electronic media (Rs. 0.08 crore).
- ix. Forest certification and development of certification standards (Rs. 0.20 crore).

5. The approval is subject to the following conditions: -

- i. Prior to implementation of approved Annual Plan of Operations, the Executive Committee of the State Authority shall ensure that a certificate is available with them to the effect that the activities that are proposed to be taken up by them, are being taken up after due consultation with Gram Sabha and are as per provisions of FRA 2006; activities proposed in forest areas are in consonance with approved working plan; and activities proposed in protected areas (PAs) are in consonance with approved management plan. The State EC will also ensure that there is no overlapping of activities with other schemes.
- ii. Compensating the loss of ecological services due to forest diversion for non-forestry purposes is the main objective of Compensatory Afforestation Fund. Regeneration and development of forests should, therefore, be given priority. Also, in the prevailing unprecedented circumstances of pandemic Covid 19, where loss of job and migration of labour is prevalent, more emphasis is to be given in APOs on creation of employment opportunities. Therefore, while implementing APOs, priority should be accorded to labour intensive activities for regeneration and development of forests.
- iii. Only 'Standalone' activities of State Forest Fire Action Plan should be proposed in the Annual Plan of Operation.
- iv. The approved activities shall be carried out as per Rule 4 of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Rules, 2018 i.e. as per the provisions of the State Financial Rules or any such rules applicable from time to time in the State.
- v. The Executive Committee of the State shall also ensure that proposed activities have adequate forward and backward linkages and are being taken up as per prevailing approved minimum wage rate, schedule of rates, model estimates etc. In future, the APOs that are sent to the National Authority for approval must be accompanied with rationale of activities proposed, information on approved minimum wage rate, schedule of rates, model estimates etc.
- vi. There should not be any reduction in allocation for forestry sector in the regular State Budget due to flow of CAMPA funds to the states. In addition, the State Government shall also make timely and adequate budget provision as per approved APO for 2020-21 and release money so that activities approved under the APO could be implemented in time.
- vii. Works related to Eco-tourism and Eco-development are permissible only as per approved site-specific schemes.
- viii. As per Rule 5 (2) (g), only soil and moisture conservation work in forests are permissible. Soil and moisture conservation work should be carried out in an integrated manner under watershed approach from "ridge to valley". Construction of Dams, Stop Dam and ponds and their deepening are to be taken up only if they are a part of an integrated soil and moisture conservation plan of the catchment area.

- ix. Maintenance/Improvement of buildings/infrastructure created from regular State budget (except activities permissible under 5(3)(d), CAF Rules, 2018) shall continue to be carried out from regular State budget
- x. Engagement of manpower (regular, contractual, through outsourcing or daily wage including Data Entry Operators and drivers etc), capacity building of the personnel involved in utilization of State Fund, publicity-cum-awareness programme and exhibition on various schemes being implemented by the State Authority shall be done as per provisions of CAF Rules, 2018 only.
- xi. The proposed activities in the APO need to be rearranged at some places as per sub-rules of rule 5 and 6 of CAF Rules, 2018, wherever found inappropriate. The State Authority shall make necessary changes in the APO accordingly with the permission of the State Executive Authority. In addition, any increase or reduction in the proportion of Rule 5(2) and 5(3) as well as Rule 6(a) and 6(b) will also need to be adjusted in the next APO.
- xii. The expenditure in respect of managing man-animal conflict such as payment of ex-Gratia, compensation for crop/property damages or damage to life on account of wild life and payment of reward to informers/helpers shall be paid from regular State budget.
- xiii. Maintenance of computers and other peripherals shall be limited the equipment purchased from CAMPA funds.
- xiv. Expenditure on items such as maintenance of vehicles and buildings purchased/constructed previously from CAMPA funds etc. shall also be kept at the barest minimum, shall be for front-line staff only, and must relate directly to the attainment of objectives specified in CAF Act, 2016 and CAF Rules, 2018 i.e. primarily for regeneration of forests etc.
- xv. Purchase of vehicles shall be avoided. Instead, hiring of vehicles shall be the first option. Repair/ maintenance of vehicles shall be limited to the vehicles purchased from the CAMPA funds previously.
- xvi. The Executive Committee of the State Authority shall ensure that there is no mixing of money with any other state scheme under implementation from any other budget as per Explanation 2 below Rule 5 of CAF Rules, 2018.
- xvii. The State Authority shall ensure that adequate numbers of Geographical coordinates/Geo-tags of all the site-specific activities proposed in the Annual Plan of Operation are available. All the physical works undertaken under this APO shall be uploaded timely on the e-Green watch portal along-with photographs of the area before and after the execution of the work.
- xviii. 'Measurable output' of all physical activities and targets of each permissible activity along with period required for achieving the measurable output shall be monitored by the State Executive Committee and State Steering Committee.
- xix. Activities proposing distribution of supply of wood saving cooking appliances and other forest produce saving devices in forest fringe villages {as per rule 5(2) (k) from NPV} shall always be taken up with measurable outcomes and study conducted on impact shall be shared with National Authority.

Yours faithfully,



(Rohit Tiwari)


Dy. Inspector General

Copy to:

1. Chief Executive Officer, State CAMPA Sikkim, Gangtok
2. Principal Secretary, Department of Finance, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok
3. Secretary, Department of Planning, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok
4. Accountant General, Sikkim, Gangtok

Copy also forwarded to:

1. Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi
2. Chief Executive Officer (National Authority), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi
3. ADG FC/WL/NTCA, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi
4. Mission Director, National Mission for Green India/Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi
5. Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhubaneswar
6. IGF FC/WL/FPD/SU/PE/FP/NAEB/NTCA, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi
7. Principal Director (Audit), Scientific Department, AGCR Building, New Delhi
8. IFD/Sanction Folder/ Guard File.
9. NIC, Bhopal (Kind attention Sri Sunil Jain, "<sjain@nic.in>") with a request to upload the sanction order on the e Green Watch.


(Rohit Tiwari)
Dy. Inspector General