

F.No.NA-15/29/2020-NA
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(National Authority)

Hall No.1, 4th Floor
Block No. 3, CGO Complex
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Dated the 9th July, 2021

To,
The Additional Chief Secretary,
Forest Department,
Government of Gujarat,
Gandhinagar

Sub: Annual Plan of Operation for the financial year 2021-22 of Gujarat State CAMPA.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to letter No. FCA/31/A/78/2021-22 dated 26.05.2021 and FCA/31/A/106/2021-22 dated 16.06.2021 of PCCF, Gujarat 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 – Gujarat (2021-22) at a total cost of **Rs. 167.35 crore (Rupees one hundred sixty-seven crore and thirty-five lakh only)** out of proposed outlay of Rs.200.00 crore recommended by the State Steering Committee for carrying out approved activities during the current financial year from the “State Compensatory Afforestation Fund – Gujarat” created under Section 4 of CAF Act, 2016.

2. The APO was discussed in the 13th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority held on 07th June, 2021. The component wise approvals accorded are as under:

Sl. No.	Activity	Physical Target (in ha.)	Financial Target (Rs. in Crore)	Remarks
1.	Site Specific Activities as per Section 6 (a) of the CAF Act, 2016			
A.	Compensatory Afforestation			
	a. 70% Advance work 2022-23	4950.41 ha	46.42	Details to be furnished
	b. 30% & Current year plantation 2021-22	3646.72 ha	31.78	-do-
	c. Maintenance of first to 10 th year old plantations (2020-21 to 2011-12)	8039.87 ha	14.69	-do-
	d. Additional conditions stipulated in the approval for various diversion proposals under FCA	389.29 ha	3.99	-do-
	Sub-total (Site Specific activities): Approved		96.88	

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Sl. No.	Activity	Physical Target (in ha.)	Financial Target (Rs. in Crore)	Remarks
2.	Activities as per Rule 5(2) of the CAF Rules, 2018			
A.	Artificial regeneration	2634.80 ha	20.27	Details to be furnished
B.	Eco Restoration by plantation on the sides of Narmada Canal Bank	1250.00 ha	50.00	Details to be furnished
C.	Protection of plantation and forests	6776	4.82*	Deferred
D.	Soil and moisture conservation works in the forests			
	a. Water conservation and Storage specially in tribal areas of Gujarat	87 Nos.	8.01*	Deferred
	b. River rejuvenation – Catchment treatment of Narmada River based on DPR prepared by ICFRE (TFRI Jabalpur)		5.00*	Details to be furnished
	c. Catchment treatment of Sabarmati River as per DPR prepared by using LIDAR Technology		5.00*	-do-
	Sub-total of Rule 5 (2): Deferred		22.83*	
	Sub-total of Rule 5 (2): Approved		70.27	
3.	Activities as per Rule 5 (3) of the CAF Rules, 2018			
A.	Establishment and Upgradation of modern nurseries and other planting stock production facilities for production of quality planting materials;		5.21*	Deferred. Details to be furnished.
B.	Independent concurrent monitoring and evaluation and third party monitoring of various works undertaken from State Fund	LS	0.50*	Deferred.
	Sub-total of Rule 5 (3): Deferred		5.71*	
4.	Activities as per Rule 6 (b) of the CAF Rules, 2018			
A.	Management of Office establishment		0.20	Details to be furnished.
	Sub-total of Rule 6 (b): Approved		0.20	
	Grand-total (Deferred)		28.54*	
	Grand-total (Approved)		167.35	

3. I am to inform that the State CAMPA has not furnished the details related to activities included in the APO in accordance with Rule 2(b) and Rule 39 of the CAF Rules, 2018, namely brief description, rationale, estimated cost and basis of cost estimation; district/forest division wise break-up of physical and financial targets of each activity in

measurable and monitor-able terms followed by a summary. These details are to be provided even in the case of activities amounting to 167.35 crore which have been approved. Further,

- i. under Artificial Regeneration, details regarding pre planting operation, first year operation and maintenance of each model of plantation viz. "plantation in barren hills", "road plantation", "bamboo model", "plantation in degraded forest", "plantation in non-forest land" etc. are to be furnished.
- ii. under Eco Restoration by plantation on the sides of Narmada Canal Bank, geo-coordinates of the sites are to be furnished and this activity shall be permissible if the site is under administrative control of the State Forest Department.

4. It is also to inform that approval in respect of following activities has been deferred due to discrepancies, in addition to those pointed out in the preceding paragraph:

- i. Protection of Plantation and Forests- check post, fire watch tower/watch tower, chowki/post, forest checking naka, check post etc. may be permissible under Rule 5(3) (d).
- ii. River rejuvenation-catchment treatment of Narmada River- no details
- iii. Catchment treatment of Sabarmati River-no details
- iv. Establishment and Upgradation of modern nursery- scheme details not submitted
- v. Independent concurrent monitoring and evaluation and third party monitoring – no details

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

- i. Utilization of State Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) shall be done in such a manner that at least 80 per cent is used for afforestation forest development and wildlife habitat improvement and maximum 20 per cent be used for infrastructure/capacity building related items. Please refer to Hon'ble Minister, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India & Chairman of the National Authority letter no NA-1/47/2020-NA dated 22.10.2020 addressed to Hon'ble CM of State Governments/Lt. Governors of UT Administration in this regard.
- ii. The State Authorities shall ensure that uploading of the correct KML files and geo-coordinates of afforestation and major works undertaken during the year 2020-21 along with their photographs (before plantation and after plantation, and thereafter annually) has been completed, before they release funds to the respective implementing agencies henceforth in 2021-22.
- iii. Monitoring and evaluation of the works undertaken shall be the highest priority for the State Authority, and the Executive Committee and the Steering Committee of the State Authority shall take adequate measures in this regard. The monitoring and evaluation report of the works done upto the year 2020-21 shall be ready by September, 2021, and similarly report on activities taken up in 2021-22 must be made available by September 2022.
- iv. For third party monitoring, the State should engage agency who are independently working and it should not be local NGOs/ organisations which is attached/ working with the Forest Departments.

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- v. A statement that the Annual Report and the Audit Report together with a memorandum of action taken on recommendations contained therein has been laid in each house of the State legislature as per requirements of section 29 of the CAF Act 2016, shall be invariably submitted with the proposal for approval of the APO by the EC of NA.
- vi. Compulsory inclusion of following details in the APOs as a separate chapter shall be a precondition for approval of the APOs in future:
 - a. Uploading of correct KML files and geo-coordinates of all afforestation and other major works carried out on e-GreenWatch.
 - b. Completing monitoring and evaluation (both routine monitoring and third party monitoring) of works undertaken and action taken on the recommendations.
 - c. Laying down Annual Report and Audit Report of State Authority up to the year 2020 before the State Legislature.
- vii. Casual engagement of local people or labours to assist regular staff of State Forest Department for works for protection of forest and wildlife undertaken from State fund as per rule 5(3)(f) is subject to the limit of 25% of total cost under the component. These will be standalone and monitor-able items of work, and there shall be no mixing of funding for the same work.
- viii. Prior to implementation of approved APOs the EC of the State Authority shall ensure that a certificate is available with them to the effect that the proposed activities 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.
- ix. The Executive Committee of the State shall also ensure that there is no overlapping of activities / funding with other schemes and may provide a certificate to that effect.
- x. Local species, especially fruit and fodder species, has to be given preference in afforestation/ regeneration to be carried out; monoculture should not be undertaken, and planting of exotic species shall be avoided.
- xi. 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, priority should be accorded to labour intensive activities for regeneration and development of forests.
- xii. State Forest Fire Action Plan proposed in the APO shall be a "standalone" activity.
- xiii. 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.
- xiv. 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.
- xv. 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 and release money so that approved activities could be implemented in time.

- xvi. Works related to Eco-tourism and Eco-development are permissible only as per approved site-specific schemes.
- xvii. Soil and moisture conservation work shall be carried out in an integrated manner under watershed approach from "ridge to valley" only in degraded forests. This shall focus on assisted natural regeneration and supplemented by artificial seeding with quantifiable monitoring parameters. Construction of dams, stop dams 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. Since this component (SWC for regeneration of forests) is a very large work, the efficacy of the design and the activities shall be concurrently monitored by a reputed independent agency. Actions will be, accordingly, taken during the lifetime of each project. The overall impact on improved forest regeneration shall be shared with NAEB (MoEF&CC) on an annual basis.
- xviii. 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.
- xix. '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.
- xx. The validity of APO (2021-22) shall expire on 31.03.2022. Further continuation of the incomplete activities shall be permissible only if they are included in the APO (2022-23) and are approved.
- xxi. The final approval of APO (2021-22) shall be considered only after the State Government submits a compliance report as per (a) the guidelines regarding utilization of unspent balance of the Ad-hoc CAMPA issued vide letter no. NA-15/1/2020-NA dated 15.07.2020 of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and (b) para 3 and 4 of this letter.
- xxii. Further, to avoid a delay in sanction of remaining activities of the APO, the State CAMPA is requested to re-examine the document at their level as per above guidance before submitting them.

Yours faithfully,




(Ajeeta Longjam)
(Assistant Inspector General of Forests)
National Authority

Copy to:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Department of Forests, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar;
2. Chief Executive Officer, Gujarat CAMPA, Gandhinagar;
3. Principal Secretary, Department of Finance, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar;
4. Secretary, Department of Planning, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar;
5. Accountant General, Gujarat, Gandhinagar;

Copy also forwarded to:

1. Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi
2. Special Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi
3. Chief Executive Officer (National Authority), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi
4. ADG FC/WL/NTCA, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi
5. Mission Director, National Mission for Green India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi
6. Deputy Director General of Forests, Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (All)
7. IGF FC/WL/FPD/SU/PE/FP/NAEB/NTCA, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi
8. Principal Director (Audit), Scientific Department, AGCR Building, New Delhi
9. IFD/Sanction Folder/ Guard File.
10. NIC Cell with a request to upload the sanction order on e-Greenwatch.


(Ajeeta Longjam) 09/09/2021
(Assistant Inspector General of Forests)
National Authority