

F.No. NA-15/30/2020-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 30th September, 2021

To,

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

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

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to letter No.A-23/Sacs/F&ED/2020-21/236 dated 31.05.2021 of Government of Sikkim on the above mentioned subject and 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 mandatory and time bound activities of the Annual Plan of Operation – 2021-22. In 13th Executive Committee (EC) of National Authority has approved at a total cost of **Rs. 30.4 crore and deferred Rs. 8.86 crore** vide letter dated 23rd July 2021 and in the 14th Executive Committee (EC) of National Authority has approved at a total cost of **Rs. 31.80 crore and deferred Rs. 2.09 crore** vide letter dated 25.08.2021 out of total proposed outlay of **Rs. 73.15 crore**.

2. The State Authority has furnished the details of deferred activities worth **Rs. 9.12 crore (Rupees Nine crores and twelve lakh only)**.

(Amount Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Activities	Physical Target (Area in ha)	Financial Targets	Remarks
1. Activities as per Rule 5(2) of the CAF Rules, 2018				
a.	Artificial Regeneration			
	Fodder Plantation -Maintenance 1 st year	100	0.05	
	Silviculture Development-Maintenance 1 st year	100	0.05	
	Avenue Plantation- Maintenance 1 st year	30	0.01	
b.	Silviculture operation in forests			
	Restoration of locally threatened plant species	As Per APO	0.15	
	Demonstration/pilot studies pilot for raising prioritized HA medicinal plants in	As Per	0.03	


30 9 21

	cultivation model	APO		
	Cost and collection of prioritized medicinal plant species including land development and QPM development	As Per APO	0.04	
	Testing of phyto-chemical profile /nutritional content of prioritized medicinal species	As Per APO	0.06	
	Study to assess present status of natural <i>Cycas pectinata</i> population of Sikkim	As Per APO	0.10	
	Preparation of biodiversity learning kits	As Per APO	0.14	
	Filed survey for assessment of degraded forest land by working plan division.	As Per APO	0.25	
c.	Soil and moisture conservation in forests			
	Broom Grass plantation -Maintenance 1 st year	565	0.30	
	Rejuvenation and conservation of Kechupalri Lake, West Sikkim	As per APO	1.00	
2.	Activities as per Rule 6(a) of the CAF Rules 2018			
	Catchment area treatment plan for hydro electric project (Cost escalation)	As Per APO	3.79	
	Salary of proposed drivers	As Per APO	0.12	
	Salary of Monitoring Assistant	As Per APO	0.04	
3.	Activities as per Rule 6(b) of the CAF Rules 2018			
	POL/HSD and maintenance of vehicles & machineries of state authority off ices	As Per APO	0.40	
	Construction of new conference hall for State Authority	As Per APO	0.50	
	Other activities for management of forest and wildlife including up-gradation/improvement			
	Protection of Forest Property (Range office, Nursery, FG Quarters) at Yoksham from Landslide		0.26	
	Conservation and treatment of landslides areas at Tsong RF, West Sikkim damaged due to landslide created by cloud burst that occurred on 16.09.2019	2520	1.24	
	Conservation and treatment of landslide areas at Lingchom, North Sikkim	1290	0.59	
	Grand Total		9.12	

Handwritten signature
30.9.21

3. **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 up to 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/ organizations which is attached/ working with the Forest Departments.
- 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-Green Watch.
 - 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. 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.
- viii. 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.
- ix. 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.
- x. Compensating the loss of ecological services due to forest diversion for non-forestry purposes is the main objective of Compensatory Afforestation Fund. Regeneration and


30.9.21

- development of forests should, therefore, be given priority. Also, priority should be accorded to labour intensive activities for regeneration and development of forests.
- xi. State Forest Fire Action Plan proposed in the APO shall be a "standalone" activity.
 - xii. 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.
 - xiii. 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.
 - xiv. 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.
 - xv. Works related to Eco-tourism and Eco-development are permissible only as per approved site-specific schemes.
 - xvi. 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.
 - xvii. 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.
 - 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. 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.
 - xx. 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.

Yours faithfully


(S.K Muan Guite)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests
National Authority

Copy to:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Department of Forests, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok;
2. Chief Executive Officer, Sikkim CAMPA, Gangtok;
3. Principal Secretary, Department of Finance, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok;
4. Secretary, Department of Planning, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok;
5. 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. 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-Green watch.


(S.K Muan Guite)

**Assistant Inspector General of Forests
National Authority**