

**F.No. NA-15/30/2020-NA**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change**  
**(National Authority)**

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Hall No.1, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Block No. 3, CGO Complex  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003  
Dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 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,

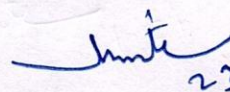
I am directed to refer to letter No.A-23/SCaS/F&ED/2020-21/236 dated 31.05.2021 of Government of Sikkim on the above mentioned subject and convey the approval of the Executive Committee of the National Authority under Section 15 (1) (i) of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016 for the mandatory and time bound activities of the Annual Plan of Operation – 2021 at a total cost of **Rs.30.4 crore (Rupees Thirty crore and four lakh only)** and **Rs.22.15 Crore** (Rupees twenty two crore and fifteen lakh only) out of proposed outlay of Rs.73.15 crore for APO for 2021-22 and for Spill-over liabilities of APO 2020-21 respectively, recommended by the State Steering Committee 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 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Authority held on 07<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 and the component wise approval for carrying out essential plantation activities is as under:

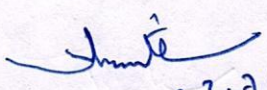
| S.No.   | Activity                                | Physical Target (in ha.) | Financial Target (Rs. in Crore) | Remarks |
|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| <b>1. Site Specific Activities as per Section 6(a) of the CAF Act, 2016</b> |   |                          |                                 |         |
| a   | Compensatory Afforestation (CA) Schemes |                          | 6.60                            |         |
| b   | Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan     |                          | 5.50                            |         |

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|--|---|-----|--------------|----------|
| c  | Integrated Wildlife Management Plan   |     | 5.20         |          |
|  | <b>Sub-total Site-Specific Activities</b>   |     | <b>17.30</b> |          |
| <b>2. Activities as per Rule 5(2) of the CAF Rules, 2018</b> |   |     |              |          |
| a  | <b>Maintenance ANR (3rd year)</b>   | 355 | 0.12         |          |
| b  | Aided Natural Regeneration and allied activities including protection, SMC etc. of <i>Shorea robusta</i> ( <i>Sal</i> ) through seed dibbling | 20  | 0.16         |          |
|  | <b>Sub-total</b>  |     | <b>0.28</b>  |          |
| c  | <b>Artificial Regeneration</b>  |     |              |          |
|  | a. Maintenance of nursery for production of seedlings for Artificial Regeneration   | 35  | 0.46         |          |
|  | b. Fodder Plantation  | 500 | 1.11         |          |
|  | i. Maintenance (1st yr.)  | 100 | 0.05*        | Deferred |
|  | c. Silviculture Development   | 100 | 0.26         |          |
|  | i. Maintenance (1st yr.)  | 100 | 0.05*        | Deferred |
|  | d. Avenue Plantation  | 30  | 0.19         |          |
|  | i. Maintenance (1st yr.)  | 30  | 0.01*        | Deferred |
|  | e. Plantation of <i>zanthoxylum armatum</i> (Bokey timber) and <i>lindera neesiana</i> (Sel Timber)   | 10  | 0.06         |          |
|  | f. Plantation of mixed species of medicinal plants  | 50  | 0.28         |          |
|  | g. Bamboo Plantation (Large bamboo with Rhizome)  | 200 | 1.14         |          |
|  | h. Aerial Plantation  | 10  | 0.25         |          |
|  | <b>Sub-total: Deferred</b>  |     | <b>0.11</b>  |          |
|  | <b>Sub-total: Approved</b>  |     | <b>3.75</b>  |          |
| d  | <b>Silviculture Operation in forests</b>  |     |              |          |
|  | a. Patch plantation of Lakuri   | 4   | 0.02         |          |
|  | b. Malagiri patch plantation  | 4   | 0.02         |          |
|  | c. Raising of oak seedlings   | 1   | 0.04         |          |
|  | d. Silviculture thinning of cryptomeria (Dhupi)   | 35  | 0.46         |          |
|  | e. Study on status of introduced exotic tree species in Sikkim  | L/s | 0.02*        | Deferred |
|  | f. Restoration of locally threatened plant species  | L/s | 0.15*        | Deferred |
|  | g. Demonstration / pilot studies plot for raising prioritised HA medicinal plants in cultivation model  | L/s | 0.03*        | Deferred |
|  | h. Cost and collection of prioritised medicinal plant species including land development and QPM development                                  | L/s | 0.04*        | Deferred |

  
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|   |   |           |             |          |
|---|---|-----------|-------------|----------|
|   | i. Testing of phytochemical profile / nutritional content of prioritised medicinal species  | L/s       | 0.06*       | Deferred |
|   | j. Thinning of teak plantation ( <i>Tectona grandis</i> )   | 5         | 0.07        |          |
|   | k. Study to assess present status of natural <i>Cycas pectinata</i> population in Sikkim  | L/s       | 0.10*       | Deferred |
|   | l. Preparation of biodiversity learning kits  | L/s       | 0.14*       | Deferred |
|   | m. Field survey for assessment of degraded forest land by Working Plan Division   | L/s       | 0.25*       | Deferred |
|   | <b>Sub-total: Deferred</b>  |           | <b>0.79</b> |          |
|   | <b>Sub-Total: Approved</b>  |           | <b>0.61</b> |          |
| e | <b>Soil &amp; Moisture Conservation in forests</b>  | 270       | 1.67        |          |
|   | Broom Grass Plantation  | 300       | 0.58        |          |
|   | a. Maintenance (1st yr.)  | 565       | 0.30*       | Deferred |
|   | <b>Sub-Total: Deferred</b>  |           | <b>0.30</b> |          |
|   | <b>Sub-Total: Approved</b>  |           | <b>2.25</b> |          |
| f | <b>Improvement of wildlife habitat as provided in the approved wildlife management plan or working plan</b>   |           |             |          |
|   | <b>a. Management of wildlife habitat of Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary, West Sikkim</b>  |           |             |          |
|   | (i) Plantation of Small Bamboo  | 8         | 0.03        |          |
|   | (ii) Elaborate Soil and Moisture Conservation   | 8         | 0.06        |          |
|   | (iii) Construction of water Harvesting structures   | 3         | 0.02        |          |
|   | (iv) Creation of Salt licks   | 3         | 0.01        |          |
|   | (v) Plantation/dibbling/broadcasting of wildlife amenable species   | 8         | 0.04        |          |
|   | <b>Sub-Total</b>  | <b>30</b> | <b>0.16</b> |          |
|   | <b>b. Management of wildlife habitat of Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP)</b>   |           |             |          |
|   | a. Conservation/ Maintenance of Kathok lake   |           |             |          |
|   | b. De-siltation, construction of check dam to avoid further sedimentation and plantation around the lake  | 3         | 0.16        |          |
|   | c. Laying and purchase of Salt licks  | 2000      | 0.02        |          |
|   | d. Habitat improvement of Red Panda, Himalayan Black Bear (in high altitude areas) i.e creation of bamboo plantation (small bamboo) at Neshu, Karjee, Tshoka, Bakhim, Pao-Hingri & Narkhola (Yuksam, KNP/KBR Range) | 10        | 0.05        |          |

  
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| e. Habitat improvement of Red Panda, Himalayan Black Bear (in high altitude areas) i.e creation of bamboo plantation (small bamboo) at Saffu, Shipgyer, Pakyel, Sathdharey, Sakyong, Tholung (Dzongu, KNP/KBR Range) | 10 | 0.05        |  |
| f. Habitat improvement of Red Panda, Himalayan Black Bear (in high altitude areas) i.e creation of bamboo plantation (small bamboo) at Phim-Phu, Dharey, Denga, Slap, Pegong, Geer (Chungthang KNP/KBR Range)        | 10 | 0.05        |  |
| g. Plantation of local fruit bearing species which are palatable to with animals (at the periphery of the PA's) in High altitude areas at Zeema, Lachen, Singkathang, Denga (Chungthang KNP/KBR Range)               | 10 | 0.05        |  |
| h. Plantation of local fruit bearing species which are palatable to with animals (at the periphery of the PA's) in High altitude areas at Yuksam, Khyongtey, Tsong, Karjee (Yuksam KNP/KBR Range)                    | 10 | 0.05        |  |
| i. Plantation of local fruit bearing species which are palatable to with animals (at the periphery of the PA's) in High altitude areas Salim-Pakyal, Tingvong Sakyong, Lingza, Saffu (Dzongu KNP/KBR Range)          | 10 | 0.05        |  |
| <b>Sub-total</b>   |    | <b>0.48</b> |  |
| <b>c. Management of wildlife habitat of Fambonglho Wildlife Sanctuary, East Range</b>  |    |             |  |
| i. Maintenance of the Rhododendron habitat   |    | 0.10        |  |
| ii. Wetland conservation of lakes inside the sanctuary which serves as a water reservoir to the surrounding villages   |    | 0.15        |  |
| iii. Wildlife habitat clearance of unwanted weeds  |    | 0.10        |  |
| <b>Sub-total</b>   |    | <b>0.35</b> |  |
| <b>d. Management of wildlife habitat of Kitam Bird Sanctuary</b>   |    |             |  |
| (i) Soil and Moisture Conservation Works   | 12 | 0.06        |  |
| (ii) Balley benching   | 8  | 0.02        |  |
| (iii) Dibbling of wild edible fruits/ tubers   | 12 | 0.03        |  |
| (iv) Habitat Improvement of Wildlife   | 20 | 0.06        |  |
| (v) Provision of Salt licks  |    | 0.18        |  |
| <b>Sub-total</b>   |    | <b>0.35</b> |  |

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| <b>g</b>   | <b>Management of Biological diversity land biological resources</b>   |     |             |                                     |
|  | <b>Landslides and silt Control measures</b>   |     |             |                                     |
|  | a. Contour bunding in the catchment area  | 350 | 0.14        |                                     |
|  | b. Dry rubble stone masonry wall  | 250 | 0.07        |                                     |
|  | c. Soil & Moisture conservation works   | 30  | 0.16        |                                     |
|  | d. Aided Natural regeneration   | 35  | 0.13        |                                     |
|  | e. Medicinal Plantation   | 10  | 0.07        |                                     |
|  | <b>Sub-total</b>  |     | <b>0.57</b> |                                     |
|  | <b>Sub-total Rule 5(2)</b>  |     | <b>8.45</b> |                                     |
| <b>3. Activities as per Rule 5(3) of the CAF Rules, 2018</b> |   |     |             |                                     |
|  | a. Establishment, up-gradation and maintenance of modern nurseries and other planting stock production facilities for production of quality planting materials. | L/s | 0.20        |                                     |
|  | b. Casual engagement of local people or labours to assist regular staff of forest department for protection of forest and wildlife                              | L/s | 0.22        | Condition 7 below (25% of proposed) |
|  | c. Independent concurrent monitoring and evaluation and third-party monitoring of works undertaken from State Fund of various works undertaken from state fund. | L/s | 0.70        |                                     |
|  | <b>Sub- total Rule 5(3)</b>   |     | <b>1.12</b> |                                     |
| <b>4. Activities as per Rule 6(a) of the CAF Rules, 2018</b> |   |     |             |                                     |
|  | a. Compensatory afforestation (Cost escalation)   | L/s | 1.77        |                                     |
|  | b. Catchment Area Treatment Plan for Hydro Electric Project (Cost escalation)   | L/s | 3.79*       | Deferred                            |
|  | c. Integrated Wildlife Management Plan (Cost escalation)  | L/s | 0.16        |                                     |
|  | d. Others (Biodiversity Conservation & Management Plan) (Cost escalation)   | L/s | 0.20        |                                     |
|  | e. Salaries and Allowances of Members and Staff   | L/s | 0.31        |                                     |
|  | f. Salary of proposed drivers   | L/s | 0.12*       | Deferred                            |
|  | g. Salary of Monitoring Assistant   | L/s | 0.04*       | Deferred                            |
|  | <b>Sub-total Rule 6(a)</b>  |     | <b>6.39</b> |                                     |
| <b>5. Activities as per Rule 6(b) of the CAF Rules, 2018</b> |   |     |             |                                     |
|  | <b>Management of office establishment: -</b>  |     |             |                                     |

  
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| a. Maintenance/strengthening of office of the State Authority   |   | 0.40  |          |
|---|---|---|----------|
| b. Office equipment including computers and peripherals and its annual maintenance for State Authority  |   | 0.10  |          |
| c. CAG Audit Fees   |   | 0.07  |          |
| d. Improvement of Database Management System  |   | 0.21  |          |
| e. Conservation and treatment of landslide areas at Tsong RF, West Sikkim damaged due to landslide created by cloud burst that occurred on 16-09-2019 | 2520                                    | 1.24  | Deferred |
| f. Conservation and treatment of landslide areas at Lingchom, North Sikkim  | 1290                                    | 0.59  | Deferred |
| <b>Sub-total Rule 6(b)</b>  |   | <b>2.61</b>   |          |
| Others (Biodiversity Conservation Plan)   |   | <b>1.88</b>   | Deferred |
| <b>Sub-Total of Rule 6(a)&amp;(b)</b>   |   | <b>10.88</b>  |          |
| <b>Grand Total: Deferred</b>  |   | <b>8.86</b>   |          |
| <b>Grand Total: Approved</b>  |   | <b>30.4</b>   |          |
| <b>Spill-over liabilities of APO 2020-21</b>  |   |   |          |
| S.No.   | Activities                              | Spill-over liabilities of APO 2020-21<br>(in crore) |          |
| 1   | Compensatory Afforestation (CA) schemes | 0.76  |          |
| 2   | Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan     | 1.2   |          |
| 3   | Integrated Wildlife Management Plan     | 4.12  |          |
| 4   | Net Present Value                       | 8.13  |          |
| 5   | CAF Interest                            | 6.28  |          |
| 6   | Others (Biodiversity Conservation Plan) | 1.66  |          |
|   | <b>Total</b>                            | <b>22.15</b>  |          |

3. It is to inform that 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. *Brief description, rational, estimated cost and basis of cost estimation of each activity; district/forest division wise break-up of physical and financial targets of each activity in measurable and monitor-able terms followed by a summary; and location details including geo-coordinates of the site etc. are to be furnished in the APO.* Hence, out of mandatory and time bound activities approved in principal by the executive committee of the National Authority, those amounting to Rs. 8.86 Crore have been deferred. It is also to inform that approval in respect of following activities has been deferred as no or insufficient details have been finished, in addition to those pointed out in the preceding paragraph:

- i. Details of maintenance of 1<sup>st</sup> year plantation

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- ii. Under Silviculture Operation in forests-
    - a. Study on status of introduced exotic tree species in Sikkim,
    - b. Restoration of locally threatened plant species
    - c. Demonstration / pilot studies plot for raising prioritized HA medicinal plants in cultivation model
    - d. Cost and collection of prioritised medicinal plant species including land development and QPM development
    - e. Testing of phytochemical profile / nutritional content of prioritised medicinal species
    - f. Study to assess present status of natural *Cycas pectinata* population in Sikkim
    - g. Preparation of biodiversity learning kits
    - h. Field survey for assessment of degraded forest land by Working Plan Division.
  - iii. Catchment Area Treatment Plan for Hydro Electric Project (Cost escalation)
  - iv. Salary of proposed drivers
  - v. Salary of Monitoring Assistant
  - vi. Conservation and treatment of landslide areas at Tsong RF, West Sikkim damaged due to landslide created by cloud burst that occurred on 16-09-2019
  - vii. Conservation and treatment of landslide areas at Lingchom, North Sikkim
4. It is also inform that the above mentioned details as mentioned in S.L No. 3 are required in respect of all activities, whether approved (including disbursement of salary and allowances and sitting fees and allowances) or are proposed to be approved in the next meeting of the executive committee of the national Authority. Hence it is requested to furnish above details immediately as only thereafter the remaining APO will be considered for approval.
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.

  
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- 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.
- 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

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- 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.

Yours faithfully

  
(S.K Muan Guite)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests


**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-Greenwatch.

  
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**Assistant Inspector General of Forests**