

### Annual Progress Report (2023-24)

<b>Name of Scheme</b>	: Establishment of Programme Management Unit (PMU) for Operationalization of Green Credit Programme
<b>Funding Agency</b>	: National CAMPA Fund
<b>Duration:</b>	: 3 years (2023-24 to 2026-27)
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	: Rs. 10,00,00,000/- (Rs. Ten crores only)
<b>Sanction Number</b>	: F.No. NA-13/18/3023-NA, dated 18.09.2023
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Instalment</b>	: Rs. 1,00,00,000/- (Rs. One crores only)

#### **Introduction**

The Central Government notified the Green Credit Rules, 2023 on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 under the Environment Protection Act, 1986. These rules put in place a mechanism to encourage voluntary environmental positive actions resulting in issuance of Green Credits. The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) has been designated as Administrator of the Green Credit Programme, and is responsible for implementation of the GCP including development of activity specific methodologies and IT infrastructure (Portal/Registry) for GCP, registration of activities, issuance of green credits, monitoring and audit.

Executive committee, CAMPA accorded in principal approval for Rs. 10 Crore to proposal of ICFRE about Establishment of Programme Management Unit for operationalization of GCP at ICFRE (for 2023-24 to 2025-26). As per Government of India, CAMPA letter File No. NA-13/18/2023-NA; dated 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023, initial fund of Rs. 1.00 Crore as 1<sup>st</sup> instalment was released to ICFRE during 2023-24.

#### **Activities carried during the financial year of 2023-24**

S. No.	Activities	Progress during financial year 2023-24
1.	Setting up of PMU	Green Credit Cell has been established at ICFRE headquarters with deployments of DCF and scientists for implementation of Green Credit Programme. The Cell will be upgraded as Project Management Unit in next financial year. Contact for refurbishment of first floor of DFE building in New Forest Campus for establishment of GCP-PMU is awarded to CED-II, CCU, Dehradun.
2.	Establishment of secretariat	To be established in next financial year
3.	Engagement of consultant(s) (Individual and firm)	Was not done as the structure of Green Credit Programme was modified and requirement of consultants will arise in next financial year.
4.	Constitution of inter- ministerial consultative committee to facilitate day to day working of GCP	Steering Committee under the chairpersonship of Secretary, MoEF&CC has been under Green Credit Rules, 2023 (vide OMs dt. 17.10.2023). The Steering Committee comprises of representatives from the Ministries, Departments, experts from the field of environment,

		industry associations and other relevant stakeholders. First meeting of Steering Committee was held on 18.10.2023.
5.	Establishment of Technical Committee and Working Groups	Technical committees (i) for Tree Plantation based Green Credit, and (ii) for Water Conservation based Green Credit and (iii) for Green Credit Registry, Verifiers, Auditors and GCP Portal under the Chairmanship of Director General, ICFRE have been constituted by the MoEF&CC. Each Technical Committee is comprised of members from the Ministries and Departments, organizations and experts having the knowledge and experience in the field related to the activity. First meeting of Technical Committees for Tree Plantation and Water Conservation based Green Credit held under the Chairmanship of DG, ICFRE on 26 <sup>th</sup> July, 2023. First meeting of Technical Committee for Green Credit Registry, Verifiers, Auditors and GCP Portal under the Chairmanship of DG, ICFRE on 7 <sup>th</sup> August, 2023. Second meeting of all three Technical Committees was held on 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 2023 at ICFRE, Dehradun.
6.	Establishment of Accreditation Committee	Necessary guidelines for third party verifiers and verification guidelines will be developed in the financial year 2024-25.
7.	Establishment of Registration and Issuance Committee	Necessary guidelines for issuance of green credit will be developed in the financial year 2024-25.
8.	Development of methodologies, standards, registration process and associated MRV mechanism for identified activities	A workshop on developing guidelines for Tree Plantation based Green Credit and for Green Credit Registry, Verifiers, Auditors and GCP portal under Green Credit Programme was conducted on 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 2023. Based on the recommendations of ICFRE, the MoEF&CC issued notification of draft methodology for tree plantation and water harvesting based green credits. The Ministry published the final notification for 'Methodology for calculation of green credit in respect of tree plantation' and Office Memorandum for modalities to take up tree plantation on degraded forest lands on 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024 based on inputs provided by the ICFRE. Necessary guidelines for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) will be developed in the financial year 2024-25.
9.	Establish methodologies and process for defining a unit value of one GCP credit equivalence of each identified activity	This activity is deferred in the changed scenario of Green Credit Programme implementation.
10.	Development of guidelines for accreditation of verifiers, third-party certifiers and auditors	Necessary guidelines for accreditation third party verifiers/ certifiers and auditors will be developed in the financial year 2024-25.
11.	Development of guidelines for self- certification, verifiers, third-party certifiers and auditors	Necessary guidelines for third party verifiers and verification guidelines will be developed in the financial year 2024-25.
12.	Development of guidelines for application and grant of GCs	To be carried out in next financial year.
13.	Development of guidelines for GCP registry	Necessary guidelines for GCP registry will be developed in the financial year 2024-25.

14.	Development of guidelines for knowledge/data platform for data invenorization and analysis	To be carried out in next financial year.
15.	Development of guidelines for fees in respect of registration, third-party certification, verification and trading	This activity is deferred in the changed scenario of Green Credit Programme implementation.
16.	Development of guidelines for IT infrastructure required for GCP and protocols for GCP portal	On the recommendation of MoEFCC, International Carbon Exchange (ICX) Ltd. (A subsidiary of International Energy Exchange) has been engaged for the development of GCP Portal, App and registry.
17.	Develop formats for data submission, forms for effective functioning of GCP Portal	Guideline and forms for the uploading the land parcels and subsequent cost estimates are prepared and shared with the ICX Ltd. ICX Ltd. has developed GCP Portal ( <a href="https://moefcc-gcp.in/">https://moefcc-gcp.in/</a> ) to enable registration of Forest Department (implementing agency), plantation land blocks, entity, selection of land parcels by entity, demand note generation and payment of funds by entity.
18.	Capacity building of the staff	To be carried out in next financial year.
19.	Development of guidelines for trading platform	This activity is deferred in the changed scenario of Green Credit Programme implementation.
20.	Development of trading platform	This activity is deferred in the changed scenario of Green Credit Programme implementation.
21.	Development of digital platform for GC data/ knowledge sharing and capacity building, and trading	International Carbon Exchange (ICX) Ltd. (A subsidiary of International Energy Exchange) has been engaged for the development of GCP Portal, App and registry. Trading is deferred for now the changed scenario of Green Credit Programme implementation. Capacity building, awareness workshops, etc. will be done in the subsequent financial years.
22.	Implementation of GCP	Implementation of GCP has been started and progress of GCP till 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2024 is given in <b><u>Annexure</u></b> .



**Annexure (to Progress report)**

**Progress of Green Credit Programme till 31.03.2024**

To begin with, only voluntary tree plantation is envisaged on degraded land under the control and management of Forest Departments. The Ministry published the notification for 'Methodology for calculation of green credit in respect of tree plantation' and OM for modalities to take up tree plantation on degraded forest lands on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024. Further the guidelines for preparation of cost estimates for eco-restoration of degraded forest lands under GCP is also issued by MoEFCC vide its OM dated, 12.04.2024. GCP Portal (<https://moefcc-gcp.in/>) has been developed to enable registration of Forest Department (implementing agency), plantation land blocks, entity, selection of land parcels by entity, demand note generation, payment of fund by entity, issuance of green credits and monitoring.

The program has witnessed a steady increase in participation from both entities and State Forest Departments during February and March, 2024. Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, Western Coalfields Limited, Steel Authority of India Limited, Central Coalfields Limited, NTPC Limited, South Eastern Coalfields Limited, Northern Coalfields Limited, Coal India Limited, Eastern Coalfields Limited, Bharat Coking Coal Limited, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd, NHPC Limited, Oil India Limited and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. completed their registrations during March 2024. A total of 10 state forest departments registered themselves as Implementing Agency.

**Status of registration of land parcels of degraded forest land under the GCP as on 31 march 2024:**

Status of registration of plantation blocks under GCP									
S. No.	State	Registered Land parcels		Approved land parcels by ICFRE		Pending for verification		Land parcels (under query)	
		No.	Ha.	No.	Ha.	No.	Ha.	No.	Ha.
1	Assam	10	454	10	454	0	0	0	0
2	Bihar	28	2042	5	400	5	337	18	1305
3	Chhattisgarh	54	1142	34	713	2	28	18	401
4	Gujarat	21	622	11	310	4	153	6	160
5	Madhya Pradesh	42	1384	26	879	1	35	15	470
6	Maharashtra	22	426	17	176	0	0	5	250
7	Odisha	48	500	10	150	33	255	5	95
8	Rajasthan	16	883	9	340	3	250	4	293
9	Tamil Nadu	5	250	0	0	5	250	0	0
10	Telangana	33	629	26	465	0	0	7	164
	<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>8332</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>3887</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1308</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>3138</b>

