

**AGENDA ITEM No. 12**

**Proposal for strengthening of Regional Offices of MoEF&CC**

Name of Scheme/ Project:	Proposal for seeking financial support for strengthening, monitoring and implementation of the CAF Act by Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC		
Program Division of the Ministry	Regional Offices Headquarters (ROHQ) Division		
Nodal Officer of Programme Division (name and designation) and contact details-email id Mobile no	Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey, Inspector General of Forests (FC/ROHQ) E-mail: <a href="mailto:Ramesh.pandey@nic.in">Ramesh.pandey@nic.in</a> Mob: 99587 05413		
Nodal Officer of Implementing Agency/Institute (name and designation) and contact details-email id Mobile no	DDGF of concerned Regional Offices (list enclosed)		
<b>Objectives</b>	This proposal aims to secure financial assistance to reinforce the monitoring and implementation of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act (CAF Act) by the Regional Offices (ROs) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The proposal highlights the significance of strengthening these offices to ensure effective monitoring of compliance of conditions stipulated in Forest and environmental clearances with environmental safeguards.		
Project Duration and Year wise activities	5 years		
<b>Project Outlay</b>	Rs. 5711.62 lakhs		
<b>Year wise estimated expenditure</b>	<b>S. No</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Budget Requirement (Rs. in crores)</b>
	1	1 <sup>st</sup>	10.3366
	2	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.8534
	3	3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.3961
	4	4 <sup>th</sup>	11.9659
	5	5 <sup>th</sup>	12.5642
	<b>Total</b>		<b>57.1162</b>
<b>New or extension/ modification of existing scheme.</b>	New		
<b>Revised outlay in case of existing scheme/project</b>	Not applicable		
<b>In case of modification of existing scheme: The details of expenditure incurred as on date along with copy of UC indicating unutilized fund.</b>	Not applicable		
Brief note & Justification for seeking financial support from National Fund.	The introduction of the Compensatory Afforestation Act, 2016 (CAF Act, 2016) by the Government of India, overseen by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), signifies a crucial stride towards efficient fund utilization and ecological preservation. This legislative		

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	<p>framework, guided by the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, aims to restore environmental balance.</p> <p>Regional Offices (ROs) under the MoEF&amp;CC play a pivotal role in processing project proposals, ensuring compliance with conditions, and endorsing working plans under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Given their mandate and the significance of adhering to conditions such as compensatory afforestation, ROs are uniquely poised for impartial cross-verification.</p> <p>Enhancing RO infrastructure is essential to bridge operational gaps and facilitate effective monitoring and fieldwork. This augmentation empowers officers with necessary logistics and autonomy, reducing dependency on State Forest Departments. To realize this, drawing financial support from the National Fund is proposed. This strategic alignment reinforces ROs' regulatory functions and their involvement in vital environmental legislation implementation, fostering professional monitoring and effective stewardship of India's natural resources.</p>
<b>Outcomes</b>	The financial assistance will enable Regional Offices to stand as beacons of environmental stewardship, safeguarding our forests, wildlife, and natural habitats for the present and future generations. Through our collective efforts, we can ensure that the objectives of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act and other related regulations are met, fostering a harmonious balance between development and conservation.
<b>Deliverables (including year wise)</b>	A report would be compiled by the Ministry for the monitoring completed under the CAF Act
<b>Recommendation of the Program Division</b>	The ROHQ Division (Program Division) of the MoEF&CC has prepared the Scheme/Pilot Project of financial support for strengthening, monitoring and implementation of the CAF Act by Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC (name of Scheme/Pilot Project) for seeking financial support from National fund as per the section 5(b)(iii) of the CAF Act 2016. The ROHQ Division (name of Program Division) will function as Program Division for the Scheme/Pilot Project which will be implemented through DDGF of concerned Regional Offices (name of Implementing Agency) as Implementing Agency and monitor the physical and financial progress of the Scheme/Pilot Project as required under CAF Act 2016 and CAF Rules 2018 and submit the quarterly progress report and annual progress report to National CAMPA. The Program Division will ensure forwarding of Utilization Certificate as and when required.

**Signature of Nodal Officer of the Program Division**



(Ramesh Kumar Pandey)  
Inspector General of Forests (FC/ROHQ)

**रमेश पाण्डेय/RAMESH PANDEY**  
वन महानिरीक्षक/Inspector General of Forests  
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