

**Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Executive Committee of WB State CAMPA on 18.09.2017 at Aranya Bhavan, Kolkata**

The following members attended the meeting:

1. Sri N.K.Pandey IFS, PCCF (HoFF) West Bengal and Chairman, Executive Committee
2. Sri S. Barari IFS, PCCF (General ), West Bengal and Member.
3. Sri J.T.Mathews, IFS, PCCF Research, Monitoring and Development, West Bengal and Member.
4. Sri N. Singhal IFS, Addl. PCCF CAMPA and Nodal Officer, FCA, WB and Member Secretary.
5. Smt Susmita Ghosal, Bala Prayas Welfare Society, Medinipur and Member.
6. Sri Sukanta Kumar Paul, Bidhan Seba Sadan, Tejpur, Amta, Howrah and Member.
7. Sri S. Sundriyal IFS, Addl. PCCF, Wildlife, West Bengal represented PCCF, Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal.

Two members - Sri T.V.N. Rao, Addl PCCF, Finance and Sri M.R. Baloch took leave of absence which was granted by the Chairman. Besides, two special invitees also attended the meeting:

1. Sri B.R.Shewa IFS, CF LA and FCA, West Bengal.
2. Sri S. Agarwal, Cost Accountant.

With the permission of Sri N.K. Pandey, Chairman, Sri N. Singhal IFS, Member Secretary initiated the proceedings and the following decisions were taken after discussions:

**1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting**

The Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting was circulated to all the members and as no observation or comment was received from the members, the same was confirmed and approved.

**2. Action taken Report regarding decisions taken during 18<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting**

The house held detailed discussions on Action taken report of the last 18th Executive Committee Meeting held on 14th September, 2016 and actions taken were approved. It was decided that further actions need to be taken in some cases as given below:

**Item 2(b) Fund lying with the Treasury**

The house was informed that 9 forest divisions has a total CAMPA fund of Rs. 30,91,720.72 lying with Treasury. The divisions are Kurseong (Rs 1,76,548.00), Birbhum (Rs 3,11,000.00), Wildlife Division II /Gorumara Wildlife Division (Rs 2,47,494.00), Bankura (South) (Rs 2,51,977.00), Medinipur (Rs 420.00) Wildlife Hq. (Rs 1,850.00), Jalpaiguri (Rs 21,931.72), Monitoring (North ) (Rs 3,10,000.00) and Kalimpong (Rs. 17,70,500.00). The Chairman informed the house that necessary G.O. in respect of Bankura (South) Division and some other Divisions has already been issued. Later it was found from CCF, Finance that the similar order has been issued in respect of Medinipur, Birbhum, Wildlife II /Gorumara Wildlife and Jalpaiguri Divisions also besides Bankura (South) Division. These Divisions would be requested to settle these amounts by depositing the said amount to WB CAMPA. Three proposals are yet to be received from Kurseong, Monitoring (South) and Wildlife Hq. for which PCCF, HoFF requested that PCCF, General, PCCF, RMD and PCCF, Wildlife to expedite the action. In respect of Kalimpong Forest Corporation Division, he emphasized that the CAMPA fund lying idle should be returned by WBFDC Ltd. He requested the Member Secretary to look into the matter.

Item 2(d) Report of the Constituted Committee for suggesting suitable forestry works over the unsuitable land for plantation handed over by NHPC

Member Secretary informed that the 18<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee had approved for taking additional Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of the unsuitable land for plantation handed over by NHPC Ltd. in Samthar( 48.71 ha) and Suruk Khasmahal (36.64 ha) under Kalimpong Division and 74.37 ha under Wildlife Div II/ Gorumara Wildlife Division anywhere within the division but outside the proposed site. The matter was informed to MD, WBFDC Ltd and PCCF Wildlife, WB but no breakthrough could be made in this respect. The Member Secretary informed that as per the existing system the change in location of Compensatory Afforestation site needs approval of the GOI. Chairman made a remark that the system of getting approval from GOI should be done away with since proposed Compensatory Afforestation site cannot be kept blank for long period as it takes long time to get the diversion proposal approved and that he would take up the matter with the D.G. Forests in the meeting scheduled in Kolkata on 23.9.2017.

Item 4. e-Green Watch & Capacity building.

The Member Secretary informed that action regarding allotment of 1200 sq. ft. space for CAMPA and Land cell in Aranya Bhawan is yet to be taken. The Chairman said that space would be provided in due course.

Item 6. Submission of Annexure II to GOI in reference to Annexure I in respect of Land Diversion Cases of West Bengal.

This is yet to be implemented. On enquiry by the Chairman, Member Secretary informed that Bankura (South) and Darjeeling Divisions has stated uploading CA and related data in the e-Green Watch portal. Sri Sukanta Kumar Paul wanted to know about e-Green Portal, the Member Secretary briefed him on the matter. He further informed that additional staff would be required for this task as it is a mammoth task which requires the compilation of all old data since 1980.

Item 7. Release of Fund from State CAMPA.

He submitted before the house that an amount of Rs. 21.00 Crore were released by GOI during late 2016-17 for taking up Compensatory Afforestation Plantations and related works and Rs. 20.50 lakhs for creation of School nurseries in 82 schools recommended by 11 forest divisions. Regarding School Nursery Yojana, Sri Sukanta Kumar Paul opined that most of the schools were unaware of such school nursery scheme. The Member Secretary explained that there is a proforma which schools have to fill up and submit to the Divisional Forest Officer who will recommend the case. On receipt of the recommended proforma, the scheme may be submitted to GOI. The Chairman handed over a booklet on School Nursery Yojana scheme to all the members present in the meeting.

**3. The approval of engagement of Chartered Accountant for conducting the Statutory Audit of the accounts of financial year 2016-17.**

The Member Secretary informed that Chartered Accountant firm R. Sonthalia & Company being the lowest quotationer, was appointed for conducting statutory Audit & submission of Statutory Audit Report & Balance Sheet for the FY 2016-17 for the total amount of Rs. 8,000.00 (Rupees Eight Thousand) only – the same rate as was approved during the previous year with the prior approval of the Chairman. The same was accepted and approved.

**4. Approval of Audited Annual Accounts of 2016-17**

The Member Secretary placed before the house the report of the Statutory Audit and balance sheet for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. He explained the main contents of the audited report and balance sheet. The Committee approved the Audited Annual Accounts for the FY 2016-17.

**5. Engagement of Contractual Staff in the office of the Addl. PCCF CAMPA & Nodal Officer, FCA, West Bengal**

Member -Secretary proposed to engage 05 additional Officers / staff on contractual basis since there is scarcity of regular staffs in the CAMPA Cell. It was decided that Member –Secretary may engage two additional persons for the time being; and may also initiate the process for selection of balance 3 officers/staff which would be taken up during the next meeting for approval.

**6. Monitoring of Plantations**

The Member secretary informed that request was made to the Director, IIFM, Ranchi for conducting Monitoring of CAMPA related works taken up by forest divisions. But since no response was received, he proposed that the Monitoring works may be taken up by the Monitoring wing of the West Bengal Forest Directorate. The same was approved. He further informed that PCCF, RM&D, WB has already been requested for taking up the Monitoring and Evaluation works and he had agreed to it. Chairman emphasized that normal system of 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year old Compensatory Afforestation plantations should be monitored. He further said that Compensatory Afforestation plantations created since 2008 till date should be monitored for South Bengal as older plantations may have been felled owing to short rotation. However for North Bengal he opined that even older plantations can be monitored.

PCCF RM&D, requested the house that necessary help may be provided to the Monitoring team. Member Secretary assured that necessary coordination shall be done with the concerned divisions.

**7. Approval for opening of Bank Accounts by DFOs.**

The Member Secretary stated that as on 01/04/2017, 27 Forest Divisions held bank Accounts for operation of CAMPA funds. After the last budget allocation in June, 2017; the following divisions were told to open a saving bank account in any Nationalized Bank to be operated under joint signature for management of CAMPA fund.

- i. Working Plan (South)
- ii. Raigunj
- iii. Burdwan
- iv. Baikantapur
- v. Siliguri Social Forestry Division
- vi. Durgapur
- vii. Malda
- viii. Nadia Murshidabad
- ix. Kalimpong Forest Corporation, Silviculture (North) and Silviculture (South) Divisions were in the process of opening the Account.

Member Secretary requested the Committee to approve the same and it was approved.

He also informed that one Division had an old account in Bandhan Bank. It was decided that it should be immediately closed.

Chairman opined that Member Secretary may explore the option of allowing other banks approved by Finance Ministry of Govt. of West Bengal. PCCF, General also endorsed the proposal.


## 8. Annual Plan of Operation for 2018-19

The draft APO for 2018-19 was discussed in detail. The Member Secretary stated that before the APO is sent to GOI, it need to be approved by the State Level Steering Committee of WB CAMPA. He invited suggestions from all members and requested the members to submit their valuable suggestions immediately after Puja holidays. Addl PCCF, Wildlife and PCCF (General) proposed that all wildlife related funds may be kept for "Mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflict". PCCF RM&D requested to allot more funds for soil conservation works. Member Secretary informed that allocation for this purpose may extend upto 5 % of the total amount. He requested PCCF RM&D to send a proposal for inclusion in the APO for 2018-19. PCCF( General) suggested that due to increased work load in the field and Offices, administrative cost could be increased.

## 9. Miscellaneous

The Member Secretary briefed the members about The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016.

The Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair and all the participants in the meeting.

  
21/09/2018  
Member-Secretary  
&  
Chairman

Addl. PCCF, CAMPA & Nodal Officer, FCA  
West Bengal

  
Chairman  
&  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests

Head of Forest Force  
West Bengal