



Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests

**Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Executive Officer,
West Bengal Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority
(WB CAMPA)**

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To:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, West Bengal.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, General, West Bengal.
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, West Bengal.
4. The Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal.
5. The Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal.
6. The Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Finance, Govt. of West Bengal.
7. The Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Planning & Statistics, Govt. of West Bengal.
8. The Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Panchayat & Rural Development, Govt. of West Bengal.
9. The Principal Secretary, Land & Land Reforms Deptt., Govt. of West Bengal.
10. The Principal Secretary, Tribal Development Deptt., Govt. of West Bengal.
11. The Principal Secretary, Dept. of Science & Biotechnology, Govt. of West Bengal.
12. The Member Secretary, State Forest Development Agency, West Bengal.
13. The Financial Adviser, Forest Department, West Bengal.

Sub.: Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of The newly constituted Executive Committee of West Bengal State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (WB CAMPA), held on 24.07.2019, at Aranya Bhawan, Kolkata.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Kindly find herewith the enclosed minutes of the aforesaid meeting for your kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Encl.: As stated.

(Subrat Mukherjee)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
&

Chief Executive Officer, West Bengal CAMPA
(Member Sec. Executive Committee/ WB CAMPA)

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the newly constituted Executive Committee of West Bengal State Compensatory Fund Management and Planning Authority held on 24th July, 2019.

The 2nd meeting of the Executive Committee was held under the Chairmanship of Sri S. Barari, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, West Bengal and Chairman of the State Executive Committee, WB CAMPA.

The meeting was attended, among others, by the Member Secretary of the Executive Committee and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & CEO, WB CAMPA, West Bengal, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, West Bengal and representatives of Department of Environment, Department of Panchayat & Rural Development, Department of Land & Land Reforms, Department of Tribal Development and Financial Advisor of Department of Forests, Government of West Bengal (Attendance Sheet is enclosed herewith).

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, West Bengal and Chairman of the Executive Committee welcomed all the members and the Chief Executive Officer of WB CAMPA, briefed them about the agenda of the 2nd Executive Committee meeting. This was followed by a PowerPoint presentation by The Joint Chief Executive Officer, WB CAMPA. Discussions on each agenda item was initiated, thereafter decisions were taken agenda wise.

Agenda wise Discussion and Decisions -

Agenda No. 1 – Annual Plan of Operation for 2019-20 – The Annual Plan of Operation (APO) for 2019-20 was approved by the Steering Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal, on 16th April, 2019 and the APO was sent to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Government of India, on 2nd May, 2019. However, the Inspector General of Forests, MoEF & CC vide his letter dated 29th May, 2019 informed all States that the accumulated unspent CAMPA Fund with the Central Government will not be transferred to the State under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016, till all C&AG paras are cleared by State CAMPA, to the satisfaction of C&AG.

The C&AG audit paras were discussed in the Office of Inspector General, Forests on 17th June, 2019 and then the replies were sent on 1st of July, 2019. Each para was discussed along with the replies of WB State CAMPA.

Decision:-

It was decided that WB State CAMPA will keep a liaison with National CAMPA to resolve the C&AG issues and ensure timely release of fund in October, 2019.

Agenda No. 2 – Approval for Fund Allocation for timely completion of Compensatory Afforestation and other works from available fund of WB CAMPA.

On verification of accounts, it was found that West Bengal CAMPA, had an unspent balance of Rs. 1,477.10 Lakhs in the month of June, 2019, out of which Rs. 1,110.37 Lakhs was released to the different divisions as per the approval of the Chairman of Executive Committee of CAMPA and an amount of Rs. 836.26 Lakhs was released for undertaking Compensatory Afforestation including Advance work of 328.31 hectares, Creation for 58.20 hectares and Maintenance for 427.55 hectares. Apart from this, Creation of plantation was done for 170 hectares in Birbhum, 45 hectares in Jaldapara and 60 hectares in Durgapur under the component of Artificial Regeneration.

The Inspector General of Forests, MoEF & CC and Joint Chief Executive Officer of National CAMPA also, vide his letter no.11-100/2015-FC (Vol.III) dated 26th June, 2019, allowed the State Government to spend the unspent balance for the works of afforestation etc., which were time bound activity. Hence, from the approved APO, Rs. 836.26 Lakhs was released to complete the time bound and other urgent field works.

On account of afforestation, Rs. 274.10 Lakhs was also released for the works of creation of plantation of 10 hectares in Purulia district and for construction of Range Officers' quarters in Katwa, Burdwan district as these works were of emergency nature and were allowed as per the provisions of CAF Rules 2018.

Decision:-

Executive Committee after threadbare discussions allowed the expenditure of Rs.1103.69 Lakhs including 836.26 from APO and Rs. 274.10 from the unspent balance.

Agenda No. 3 – Accounting Procedure for the State CAMPA and SCRIPS – Accounting Procedure of State Government was briefed by the Joint Chief Executive Officer, WB CAMPA and he informed the Committee members about the new gateway of SCRIPS, which was created by Government of India and proposal has been sent to the State Finance Department.

State CAMPA Receipts Portal System (SCRIPS) – This portal system will facilitate the payment of Compensatory levies and it will be integrated with Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) and e-Kuber of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Both online and offline facility are enabled under SCRIPS for payment of Compensatory levies by the User Agency through Parivesh portal. Once collected, this fund will be deposited under Civil Deposit Head State Compensatory Afforestation Deposit (SCAD) – 8336-00-103-SCAD and out of this amount 90% will go to State General and Reserve Fund under Head of Account 8121-0012901-05 and 10% will go to Government of India in National Compensatory Afforestation Fund (NCAF) under Head of Account 8121-00-128.

As of now, MoEF & CC will also deposit the reconciled fund of Rs.23600 Lakhs for the WB CAMPA.

Decision:-

This Funding and Accounting Procedure after detailed deliberations was accepted by members of Executive Committee.

Agenda No. 4 –

Policy Suggestion – Members of the Executive Committee brought out few points related to the execution of Compensatory Afforestation which is the core activity of CAMPA.

It was brought to the notice of Executive Committee members that total Compensatory Afforestation done in non forest land from 1980 to 2018 in West Bengal is 2186.84 hectares, apart from Compensatory Afforestation, which was done in degraded forest land for 788.07 hectares. The total

forest area transferred for non forestry purposes in West Bengal from 1980 to 2018 is of 2744 hectares.

In many cases land given by the User Agency is not available/suitable for plantation because of issues related with encroachment due to population pressure, bad edaphic factors like rocks/stones and locational disadvantage, which make it difficult to undertake the plantation and sustain it. After detailed deliberations, following points were decided:

Decisions:-

- a) User Agency will give the land for Compensatory Afforestation once the proposal receives the stage 1 clearance. Before handing over the CA land, User Agency will properly fence the CA land with barbed wire fencing or with dug trench.
- b) Once the land identified and handed over to the Forest Department, Forest Department will immediately take up the plantation in the CA area in the same year from the available fund with the State CAMPA. It is also proposed that this Compensatory Afforestation need not wait for the prior approval of MoEF & CC as it was already approved by MoEF&CC in the proposal itself. This will save the time and can address the issues of encroachment etc.
- (c) It was also decided that assistance of local panchayat will be taken for identification of plantation area for Compensatory Afforestation, to erect barbed wire fencing or digging boundary trench, and for raising and protecting the plantation including species selection etc.
- (d) A proposal in this regard will be moved to the Steering Committee headed by the Chief Secretary for onward transmission to MoEF & CC. This minor changes focussing on compensatory afforestation will help to effectively implement the CAF Act 2016 and CAF Rules 2018 made thereof.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks.


Chairman, Executive Committee
WB state Compensatory Afforestation
Fund Management and Planning Authority
30.07.2019