

*12/04/10*  
*CAMPA cell*

**Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee on CAMPA**  
**convened by the Chief Secretary, West Bengal**  
**at Conference Hall, Writers Buildings on 08.03.2010.**

The following members were present –

1. Shri A.M. Chakrabarti, Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal & Chairperson, Steering Committee, State CAMPA
2. Shri K. S. Rajendra Kumar, , Addl. Chief Secretary, Forest Deptt., Govt. of West Bengal.
3. Shri A.K. Raha, , Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, West Bengal
4. Shri S.B. Mondal, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife & CWLW, W.B.
5. Shri U.K. Bhattacharya, Spl. Adl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, Hqs. & Nodal Officer FCA.
6. Shri P. Shukla, , Chief Conservator of Forests, Finance & Member-Secretary, Steering Committee, State CAMPA.
7. Shri J.K. Tewari, Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Eastern Region, Bhubaneswar, Representative of MoEF, GOI, New Delhi
8. Shri Gautam Ghosh, Jt. Secretary, Development & Planning Deptt., Representative of Principal Secretary, Development & Planning GoWB.
9. Dr. Asis Mazumdar, Coordinator, Regional Centre, NAEB, Jadavpur University Kolkata.
10. Dr. S.N. Ray, Director, IISWBM, Kolkata.

Following special invitees also attended the meeting-

1. Dr. K.M. Agarwal, Prof. & Head, MPSM, IISWBM, Kolkata.
2. Shri P.D. Bandyopadhyay, Jt. Secretary, Forest Deptt., GoWB.
3. Shri Bhabani Prasad Das, Divisional Forest Officer (Retd.), State CAMPA Cell.

The meeting was chaired by the Chief Secretary, West Bengal, who initiated the discussion by explaining the objectives of creation of State CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority).

PCCF, WB placed before the committee a proposed, short term action plan, for an amount of Rs 5.29 crores, which was prepared on the basis of a draft action plan, approved by the Executive Committee of the State CAMPA in its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 20th Oct., 2009.

The Committee noted that an amount of Rs.82,13,70,776.00 have already been deposited by the state Govt. in Adhoc CAMPA, which includes Rs.67,83,88,214.00 for NPV, Rs.3,51,82,562.00 for C.A., Rs.8,32,00,000.00 for CAT Plan and Rs.2,46,00,000.00 for other items of works. Against the said amount, MoEF has transferred, an amount of Rs 5.29 crores to the State CAMPA.

The members agreed that the first charge on the available fund would be to take up Compensatory Afforestation works on all the non forest land, which have been received by the forest department from the different user agencies under F.C. Act, as well as to carry out the approved Catchment Area Treatment plan. However, it was also noted by the committee that the



entire process of C.A and C.A.T will take a minimum of three years as the afforestation activities are time-bound and stage-specific and cannot be squeezed within shorter period. The proposal in the current short term plan is to initiate advance soil/ nursery works and consolidation on all the non-forest land which are to be brought under C.A mandatorily. Similarly, under C.A.T. plan, soil conservation activities including construction of Engg. Structures, which can be taken up in the hills before the monsoon sets in June 2010, have been proposed under current short term plan.

The members further noted that the fund from the NPV can be spent, only as per approved guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, for activities like improvement of Forest Cover, Infrastructure development of Forest department, JFM development and Research activities. The SSC also agreed that only those activities will be funded from State CAMPA which cannot be otherwise met from other routine funding sources.

PCCF, WB explained that there is acute shortage of accommodation of the field level, frontline staff especially in the Left Wing Extremism affected districts of Paschim Medinipur, Bankura and Purulia of S.W. Bengal. These staff in the ranks of DR/ Fr, FG and Bana shramiks are working in the most difficult situation to protect the Sal forests of this region as well as work with the JFMCs for socio-economic upliftment of the forest fringe population mostly comprising of tribals and SC. There is also no electricity and easy source of drinking water in these remote forest locations. The existing plan/ non plan budget is also grossly insufficient to carry out the activities of housing / electrification/ drinking water for the frontline staff. The committee agreed to allocate fund for such emergent activities from CAMPA fund which will ultimately help protect and develop the forest.

PCCF, WB informed regarding the necessity of administrative building at Siliguri, as all the offices at Siliguri are located in rented buildings at various locations causing administrative inconvenience. The committee agreed to the proposal. To begin with, an amount of Rs.5.00 Lakhs was earmarked for preliminary work like soil testing, preparation of plan and estimate etc.

Addl Chief Secretary, Forest suggested that some fund provision be made for immediate implementation of the Tiger Rescue Centre at Jharkhali, as per approval of the CZA, and also to set up the State Forestry research Institute to be developed and made operational in collaboration with renowned Universities/Institutes.

It was also agreed to take up two research projects on carbon sequestration in Sundarban estuary, in the light of climate change/ global warming, jointly by forest department and Marine science department of Calcutta University.

Dr A. Mazumdar of Regional Centre NAEB, Jadavpur University, Kolkata suggested initiating some research intervention to strengthen JFM in tribal areas, specially in the NTFP sector. It was agreed to initiate a study on impact of NTFP on JFM in S.W. Bengal.

Mr J.K. Tiwari, Regional CCF, Bhubaneswar explained the need for undertaking some innovative activities with CAMPA fund, like collaborative Research, Marketing of NTFP,

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lengthening of Working Plan preparation etc. The committee agreed to the suggestion of regional CCF and allotted fund for these activities.

A detailed breakup of proposed utilization of fund available with the State CAMPA, used herewith along with its enclosures, was approved by the committee.

meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all present.

Sd/-

( A.M. Chakrabarti )

Chief Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal

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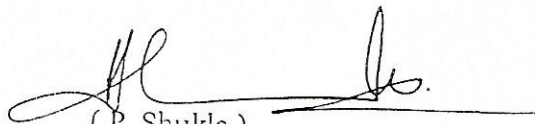
Chairperson, Steering Committee, State CAMPA.

837/P&S(P)/3D-469/10

Dated : 29.03.10

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action, to :-

- Shri K. S. Rajendra Kumar, , Addl. Chief Secretary, Forest Deptt., Govt. of West Bengal.
- Shri C.M. Bachawat, , Principal Secretary, Finance Deptt., GoWB.
- Smt. Jaya Dasgupta, , Principal Secretary, Department of Development & Planning, GoWB.
- Shri A.K. Raha, , Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, West Bengal
- Shri S.B. Mondal, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife & CWLW, W.B.
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( P. Shukla )

Chief Conservator of Forests, Finance

&

Member-Secretary, Steering Committee, State CAMPA.