

524

**Minutes of the meeting of Steering Committee of State Compensatory
Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) held on
19th March, 2021 under Chairmanship of Chief Secretary,
Government of Goa**


The list of participants is at Annexure 'A'.

As per the procedure prescribed under Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016 and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018 regarding preparation Annual Plan of Operation (APO), third meeting of the Steering Committee of State CAMPA was held to discuss and finalize draft APO for the financial year 2021-22.

2. Chief Secretary and Chairman of Steering Committee extended warm welcome to all participants and requested APCCF & CEO State CAMPA to brief the committee about the draft APO 2021-22 & status of ongoing works approved under APO of 2020-21.
3. CEO State CAMPA made a presentation before the committee and informed in detail about provisions of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 (CAF) and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018. A copy of same along with draft APO 2021-22 was provided to members in advance for perusal. CEO informed all present of the provisions regarding manner in which the funds raised through Net Present Value (NPV) and Interests accrued on deposits in State fund is to be utilized. He also broadly mentioned the type of activities which could be considered under Compensatory Afforestation (CA), NPV and Interest Component including the overall restrictions of expenditure fixed in terms of percentage in each category.
4. CEO mentioned that, the draft APO 2021-22 has been prepared after careful consideration of all the relevant provisions of CAF Act / Rules. He further informed all participants that the draft APO was deliberated at length during the meeting of the Executive Committee of State CAMPA

held on 19th Feb, 21 and after due diligence, Executive Committee has approved and recommend the draft APO for consideration of the Steering Committee.

5. CEO stated that as per the CAF, Act 2016 the APO under CAMPA is to be considered and approved by three committees i.e. Executive Committee of State Authority headed by PCCF, Steering Committee of State Authority headed by Chief Secretary and finally by Steering committee of National Authority headed by Director General & Special Secretary Forests, MoEF&CC.
6. Regarding Monitoring assessment and evaluation of the works carried out under CAMPA, CEO informed that an established system has been put in place by the Department. Both internal monitoring & assessment and third party evaluation of the works are being carried out. Centre for Environment & Education (CEE), Goa has carried out third party monitoring and evaluation for the works executed for the year 2019-20.
7. CEO further informed that dedicated teams, headed by Assistant Conservator of Forest have already completed internal monitoring / assessments of works carried out by all the divisions in 2019 -20 and third party monitoring & evaluation of all such works carried out in 2019-20 is completed by CEE. Monitoring reports were placed before the members for kind perusal. Further, internal monitoring committees headed by ACFs have been constituted for monitoring & assessment of CAMPA works carried out in 2020-21
8. DIG, IRO, MoEF&CC Bangalore requested that the information about works carried out under CAMPA may be included in the APO in prescribed format and information about CA plantation etc may be uploaded on e-green watch portal. CEO informed that all the works carried out are properly documented including GPS coordinates and



51k

photographed for reference and records. Further, as per guidelines of Ministry relevant information is being uploaded on the e-green watch portal on a regular basis. CEO also mentioned that at times some technical issues are faced during the uploading of information on portal, these technical snags are being attended in consultation with special cell officials of Forests Survey of India, MoEF&CC.

9. CEO apprised members about the physical and financial progress of various works carried out under CA, NPV & Accrued Interest component of approved APO 2020-21. He informed the members that inspite of Covid -19 pandemic, the progress this year is relatively better in comparison to last year and by the end of financial year, the expected financial expenditure is likely to be about 67 %.
10. Thereafter, the draft APO 2021-22 was discussed.
11. On the draft APO 2021-22 some observations were received from the Integrated Regional Office (IRO) of MoEF&CC at Bangalore (IRO). While accepting large part of APO, the IRO proposed to carry out some of the works to some other part of rules of CAF 2018. All the observations of IRO were discussed at length and the valuable suggestions made were incorporated in APO.
12. With reference to the observation of the IRO that procurement of two wheelers and Hiring of LMV's for frontline staff for protection of forest and plantation is not permissible under Rule (5) (2) (d), CEO informed that it is for protection of forests as per CAF Rules and last year also National CAMPA had approved the procurement of the two wheelers and hiring of LMV's under Rule (5) (2) (d) of CAF Rules, 2018. Committee agreed to retain the proposal under the same rule, as per past practice. In difficult terrains of forest, hiring of vehicles for patrolling is not cost effective, required to be avoided operationally, and is not desirable for

maintaining confidentiality. Therefore, minimum number of vehicles for forest protected areas are proposed to be purchased for frontline staff, which will be driven by existing drivers and no drivers will be hired/ recruited.

13. With reference to the observation of the IRO that some of the activities proposed in the APO under Interest component is not permissible, CEO informed that Rule 6 of CAF Rule 2018 allows for utilisation of interest accrued on deposits in State Fund Rule for POL charges and maintenance of vehicles procured for CAMPA funds earlier and National CAMPA has been approving it since last 2 years. Further CEO State CAMPA informed that as per Rule (6) (b) (vi) "any other activity for management of the forests and wildlife, not referred to in Sub-rule (5) (2) & (3), with prior approval of the Steering Committee of the State CAMPA and included in the APO" is permissible. Therefore, in accordance to provision of Rule 6 of CAF, some of the activities, which are not included in Rule 5 of CAF and are considered rationale, justified and necessary for forest and wildlife management, awareness generation amongst all for protection and conservation of nature and natural resources have been included in the Interest component in APO. After detailed deliberation committee agreed to retain the activities proposed in interest component.
14. Secretary IT suggested to rework on the items related to procurement of cloud space from NIC and work stations proposed for Working Plan Division to ensure that all required technical parameters have been included and corresponding financial outlay is proposed. Accordingly the proposal of IT & Communication was reworked.
15. Secretary, Environment suggested for setting up of adequate number of Nature Education Centers (NEC's) for awareness generation amongst all stakeholders about importance, protection and conservation of forest and wildlife in general and about turtle conservation in particular. CEO

informed that four number NECs are being developed as approved in last year APO and provision of 4 number of Nature Education Camps have been made in the APO 2021-22.

16. After discussion on each activity proposed in the APO following financial outlay for works under each component - Site Specific Compensatory Afforestation, NPV and Interest component - mentioned in APO 2021-22 placed at **Annexure B** was approved and recommended by the Steering Committee as summarized in Table-I below:

Table-I

S N	Description	Components	Financial (In Lakhs)
1	Site Specific works as per FCA approval	Compensatory Afforestation	1568.50
2	Net Present Value	Works under 80% NPV component	950.90
		Works under 20% NPV component	226.50
		Sub Total	1177.40
3	Accrued Interest	Works under 60% NPV component	319.75
		Works under 40% NPV component	204.40
		Sub Total	524.15
Grand Total			3270.05

17. The abstract of item of works approved and recommended by Steering Committee is given in the Table-II hereunder:

Table-II

S N	Items of works	Financial Outlay (In Lakhs)
1	Compensatory Afforestation	1568.50
2	Protection of Plantations and Forest	531.35
3	Soil & Moisture Conservation Work in the Forest	83.00
4	Forests fire prevention and control operations	20.50
5	Management of Biological Diversity and Biological resources	103.00
6	Construction & maintenance of residential / official building for frontline staff	35.00
7	Improvement of Wildlife Habitat	221.05
8	Capacity building, training, publicity & Awareness creation	87.00
9	IT & communication for strengthening forests protection and wildlife management	96.50
10	Activities under accrued interest	524.15
	Total	3270.05

7

18. The CEO mentioned that due to non - availability of suitable land in the State as on date, CA plantation backlog is about 1648 Ha. Attempts are being made to identify suitable land for CA plantation. Last year CA plantation was carried out in 194 Ha and this year CA plantation has been proposed in 200 Ha.

19. PCCF informed that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India is pressing hard to complete the backlog of CA plantation as soon as possible. Though, it was felt that it is desirable that CA plantation should be carried out in Goa itself to compensate the loss of trees and forest land due to diversion of forest land in State, however, Goa, being a small State and fact that 68 % of the geographical area of the State is forest and tree cover, very limited land / forest land is available which may be suitable for CA plantation. However, efforts are being made in consultation with Revenue authorities to identify non-forest land for CA.

20. PCCF further mentioned that as per policy of the Government of India, CA plantation in lieu of forest land diverted in one State may be taken up in any other State as well, in case of non availability of suitable land for CA plantation within the State . Accordingly, Department approached others States to identify suitable land in their respective States for CA in lieu of forest land diverted in Goa. In response to this, four States - Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka & MP- have confirmed that they are prepared to take up CA plantation in their State, on their degraded forest land in lieu of forest land diverted in Goa.

21. CEO briefed about the proposals received from four States and informed that on examination of proposals received from various States it is observed that Madhya Pradesh has proposed the lowest rate i.e Three Lakhs Twenty Thousand Only (Rs 3,20,000/-) per Ha in case area is more than 40Ha. He further informed that, after due deliberation, to clear

the backlog, Executive committee of State CAMPA has recommended to take up CA plantation up to 150.0 Ha in other States. CEO further informed that CA plantation in about 800 Ha area is already proposed to be taken up in Karnataka in lieu of forest land being diverted for the three linear projects in Goa.

22. The CEO emphasized that since State has backlog of about 1648 Ha, as on date, for Compensatory Afforestation and due to the non-availability of suitable land to take up such plantation, provision of 300 Ha may be considered to clear the Backlog CA.
23. The response received from other States were discussed at length and after detailed deliberation steering committee reluctantly agreed to take up CA plantation in 300 Ha area in Madhya Pradesh. Chairman instructed that necessary actions may be taken to clear the backlog of CA plantation in next 4-5 years and an appropriate mechanism may be put at place, in consultation with respective State governments, to ensure monitoring of the CA plantation carried out in other States.
24. Chairman inquired weather forestry works are executed through PWD. PCCF informed that big project construction works are carried out by PWD as a deposit work. However, small works like construction of protection camp, labour shed, watch tower, repair and maintenance of office / residential buildings etc are carried out departmentally. Chairman suggested that PCCF and PCE may work and explore feasibility of attaching one division of the PWD with Forest department to provide technical assistance for preparation of estimates, designs, drawings etc and execution of works.
25. Chairman advised that to ensure availability of food for wild animals in the forest itself, department should plant fruit bearing and fodder trees under CA and Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) plantations. He

18/11

further, mentioned that adequate steps may also be taken for availability of water throughout the year in all parts of forest. PCCF informed that adequate number of waterbodies have been included in the proposal to ensure availability of water for wildlife throughout year. Further, he suggested that for water recharging in the forest area, water retention ponds / structures may be made to harvest the rain water. Committee agreed to the proposal.

The meeting ended with thanks to chair.


APCCF / Member Secretary

Steering Committee, Goa State CAMPA.

To, All Members

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