

PROCEEDINGS

2nd MEETING OF STEERING COMMITTEE OF H.P. STATE AUTHORITY

HELD ON 21.04.2020

The 2nd meeting of the Steering Committee of Himachal Pradesh Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority (STATE AUTHORITY) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Anil Kumar Khachi, IAS, worthy Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh on 21.04.2020 at 1 PM in the CS Committee Room, H.P. Secretariat, Shimla. The list of participants is attached as Annexure-A.

At the outset, the Member Secretary of State Authority welcomed the Chairperson and other members of the Steering Committee. Thereafter, the agenda item was taken up for discussion and decision. In the meeting, the agenda item was discussed and deliberated upon in detail. The decision taken on the agenda item of the meeting is as under:-

AGENDA ITEM -1.1

Approval of APO for the year 2020-21

Steering Committee was apprised that as per Govt. of India notification dated 3rd August, 2016 and dated 10th August, 2018, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018 have been notified.

It was also brought to the notice of the Committee that APO for 2020-21 has been formulated keeping in view the provisions of CAF Act, 2016 & CAF Rules, 2018 including permissible and prohibited activities. The committee was also informed in detail about the salient features and targets proposed in thrust areas in the APO for 2020-21 as under:-

- Plantation has been proposed over an area of 3000 Ha compared to 2200 Ha taken up for planting during 2019-20. This increase has been proposed as done in other schemes of Forest Department to meet the additional target of 3000 Ha to be achieved as part of budget assurance for 2020-21. Out of proposed 3000 Ha plantation, 1555 Ha is proposed under CA, 322 Ha under CAT Plan, 980 Ha under NPV and 143 Ha in Protected Areas.
- CA plantation has been proposed over an area of 1555 Ha. It is pertinent to mention here that Govt. of India has been emphasising to give priority to clear backlog of CA, if any. In this regard, it is stated that out of total CA stipulated over an area of 27261 Ha, CA over an area of 25344 Ha has already been carried

out till 2019-20. Out of balance CA of 1917 Ha, an area of 1555 Ha has been proposed during 2020-21. Remaining 362 Ha pertains to recent diversion cases and will be covered in next financial year. Hence, there is no backlog of CA in H.P. An amount of Rs. 30.00 crore proposed for CAT Plans is as per provisions made in 42 ongoing approved CAT Plans. Similarly, provision of Rs. 18.78 crore has been kept as per allocation made for the year 2020-21 under Integrated Wild Life Management Plan approved by Govt. of India for GHNP and Koldam.

- A provision of Rs. 84.50 crore has been kept under NPV, detail of which is available at page 27-66 of APO. Emphasis has been given to components like soil moisture conservation/ development of ponds/trenches/water harvesting structures in forest areas for which a provision of Rs. 21.88 crore has been kept which will also be utilized in implementing Parvat Dhara Scheme. Rs. 3.50 crore has been proposed to meet the expenditure of office of State Authority from the interest as per rules.

Worthy Chairperson and other members emphasized upon the following main issues;

- I) Focus be on undertaking plantations in lantana cleared areas rather than taking more areas for lantana eradication. Proper monitoring of lantana eradication and rehabilitation of lantana cleared areas be undertaken so as to achieve the objective of the scheme. It was explained that Lantana eradication target has been reduced from 4265 ha in 2019-10 to 1098 ha in 2020-21 and directions have been given to field staff to take up lantana eradication areas for plantation on priority.
- II) Explore possibility of estimation of lantana eradication/planted areas through satellite imagery.
- III) Soil and moisture conservation activities on forest land be carried out in collaboration with other line departments of the state viz. Irrigation & Public Health, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj. It was explained that these works will be carried out in collaboration with Irrigation and Public Health Department and forest areas falling in the catchments taken

up by that Department under Parvat Dhara Scheme will be treated on priority. This will also strengthen Jal Shakti Abhiyan of Govt. of India.

- IV) Study be conducted through reputed institutions to assess pondage to be generated by constructing water ponds, water harvesting structures etc under soil and moisture conservation measures.
- V) Under energy saving measures rooftop solar power plants be installed in forest buildings/complexes. It was explained that provision of Rs. 2.00 crore has been made for this purpose.
- VI) Stress be laid on introduction of technological innovations in forestry sector/operations such as digitization of forest boundaries etc. It was explained that provision of Rs. 1.00 crore has been kept for this work.

The details of sector-wise provision of funds amounting to Rs. 158.385 crore approved by SC after deliberations and incorporating the necessary amendments/ suggestions by the Steering Committee is tabulated as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of Sector	Approved Outlay for 2019-20(in Crores)
1	Compensatory Afforestation (CA)	21.500
2	Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plans	30.000
3	Integrated Wild Life Management Plan(IWMP)	18.780
4	Net Present Value (NPV)	84.500
5	Interest	3.500
6	Others	0.105
Total		158.385

Decision taken: The Steering Committee, after detailed discussions and deliberations, approved the APO of Rs. 158.385 crore for 2020-21 for placing the same before National Authority for final approval.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.


Member Secretary

Steering Committee-cum-CEO
HP State Authority

21/04/2020


Chairperson

Steering Committee HP State Authority
-cum-Chief Secretary to the GoHP.

Annexure - A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Sl. No.	Name of the Participant	Designation	Remarks
1	Sh. Ram Subhag Singh, IAS	ACS (Forests), GoHP	Member
2	Sh. Prabodh Saxena, IAS	Principal Secretary(Finance & Planning), GoHP	Member
3	Sh. Rajneesh, IAS	Secretary (Environment), GoHP	Member
4	Dr. R.N Batta, IAS	Secretary (Panchayati Raj & Rural Development), GoHP	Member
5	Sh. Ajay Kumar, IFS	Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF)H.P.	Member
6	Dr. Savita, IFS	Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests -cum- Chief Wild Life Warden	Member
7	Ms Archana Sharma, IFS	Nodal Officer State Forest Development Agency	Member
8	Sh. Rajesh J. Ekka, IFS	Nodal Officer, FCA-cum- Addl. Pr. CCF(FCA)	Member
9	Dr. C.M Parsheera	Tribal Expert	Non-Official Member
10	Sh. K.S. Thakur, IFS	Addl. Pr. CCF (CAMPA) HP	Chief Executive Officer-cum-Member Secretary State Authority