

No.13-1/2009-CAMPA
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests.
Ad-hoc CAMPA

Paryavaran Bhavan,
CGO Complex Phase II,
Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 051.
Dated 3rd August, 2010.
125.

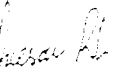
To
The Principal Chief Conservators of Forests,
All State Governments/ Union Territories.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith for information and necessary action, a copy of the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the National CAMPA Advisory Council held in New Delhi on 24th June, 2010 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State (I/C) for Environment and Forests.

2. Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

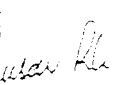


(Ansar Ahmed)

Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy also forwarded, for information/ necessary action, to :

1. The Member Secretary, Central Empowered Committee, Chanakya Bhavan, Chanakya Puri, New Delhi 110021 ;
2. Prof N H Ravindranath/ Dr D Suryakumari ;
3. Addl DGF (FC)/ Addl DGF (WL) / All IGFs/ All DIGFs / All AIGFs in MoEF (including NAEB) ;
4. DG Forest Survey of India, Dehradun/ DG National Informatics Centre New Delhi ;
5. PS to Secy (E&F)/ PS to DGF&SS.



(Ansar Ahmed)

Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the National CAMPA Advisory Council, held on 24th June, 2010 at 10 AM in Van Vigyan Sadan, Sector 5 RK Puram, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests (Shri Jairam Ramesh).

The Chairman welcomed all participants to the meeting. A list of participants, in the meeting is at Annexure.

1. The minutes of the 2nd meeting of the NCAC, held on 3rd March, 2010 were confirmed.
2. The Action Taken Reports on the minutes of the 2nd meeting were considered. It was observed that the Report reflected a satisfactory position in regard to action taken on the proceedings of the last meeting. In regard to action taken on paragraph 2.2(c) of the minutes, it was noted that the additional charge holder of the post of Director General of the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, Shri R D Jakati had been apprised of the need for priority attention to the task of establishment of the National Forestry Information Centre. The Chairman desired that a report be obtained from the DG, FSI within a time frame of one month.

[Action : IGF (FC Division)
to write to DG, FSI

3. The report on financial/ budget arrangements made for the working of the NCAC, and the directions/ proposals for utilization of the funds as placed before the meeting were considered and approved.
4. The Chairman expressed concern over the fact that many proposals which had been granted 1st stage clearance had no made no progress; the oldest of such cases was almost two decades in the past. The Chairman desired that a concise status report on old cases which had been granted 1st stage clearance, and were not being followed up by the project proponents, be furnished within 10 days, for taking a view.

[Action : IGF (FC Division)]

- 5.1 In regard to the two proposals formulated by the NIC/ NICS, presentations were made before the NCAC by a team of officers led by Dr B K Gairola, Director General, National Informatics Centre, assisted by Dr S S Gahlout,

Deputy Director General, and other officers, on both the DPRs. The salient features of the presentation were as follows :

5.2. Proposal (I) : Integrated CAMPA Concurrent Monitoring and Evaluation System (I- CCMES) :

The proposal envisaged monitoring of implementation of the Projects funded by the CAMPA, in various States. NIC had on the request of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, worked closely with the Government of Madhya Pradesh in developing the model. While the prototype of the Madhya Pradesh model was used, it was recognized that customization will be required to tailor it to the requirements of the individual stakeholders. Inputs were also invited from the Members of the NCAC so that final shape could be given to the DPR.

5.3 Proposal (II) : Security Audit and Operationalisation of web based Proposal Monitoring System for the Forest Conservation Division :

Officers of the NIC clarified that the system of monitoring of proposals received in MoEF for diversion of forest land, under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was already in place. The DPR proposal was for making the system web based, and also bring the Regional Offices of the Ministry on line. The proposal involved additional manpower, which had been built into the DPR.

5.4 Hard copies of the power point presentations made by the NIC on the above two proposals, are at Annex.

5.5. The Chairman conveyed in-principle approval to the Proposal (I) for the Integrated CAMPA Concurrent Monitoring & Evaluation System [I-CCMES] and desired that continuity of the persons involved in the Project should be ensured both by the NIC, and also of the support staff employed so that the Project does not suffer on account of the lack of continuity in operational staff. It was directed that the necessary funds could be transferred to NIC on receipt of the formal proposal with time-lines, phasing of expenditure, and the milestones for releasing instalments and signing of MOU.

5.6 Prof N H Ravindranath pointed out that before the plantations could be caught on satellite imageries, they had to grow for a couple of years and crown density will take time to be reflected in the imageries. It was pointed out that the FSI has been assigned the task of ground truthing, and whatever data is collected on satellite imageries, is subject to the test of ground truthing by the FSI. In any event, over a period of a year there will be improvement in the chlorophyll content as reflected in the imageries; this will be factored in, while undertaking the task of surveys for the purpose of ground truthing, over test areas. Dr D Suryakumari observed that what was being developed was futuristic in nature. Taking into account that over 25% of activity is already under the JFM, it should be borne in mind that the community should be able to derive benefit of such projects of large spread.

5.7 On a query from the Chairman, it was clarified that all DFOs in the country were connected on line. The broadband connectivity to the States, and to the Distt levels was being continuously improved by the NIC. In terms of a time frame which the NIC was already following, higher range of broadband connectivity would be available to all District level staff within a few months. DFO offices which are not connection though broad band need to be identified and connectivities ensured by the NIC, on priority.

6. On the proposal (II) for web-based monitoring system, it was decided to await the formal proposal from NIC after clearance in their Committee.

7.1 The status of receipt of APOs was reviewed. The Chairman expressed concern over the fact that despite reminders, APOs were received so far from only 6 States. The Chairman desired that all APOs which had been received should be put on the Ministry's web site immediately, and a communication be issued to all defaulters at his level. It was reported that one of the factors contributing to the delay in finalisation of APOs by the States was the lack of time of the Chief Secretaries in the States. It was decided that the possibility of Additional Chief Secretary being Chairman of the State Level Steering Committee, where it is not possible for the Chief Secretary to spare time, should be explored and appropriate orders issued.


7.2 The Chairman desired that the proposal from Andhra Pradesh should be treated as a template on which the other States could model their APOs. It was taken note that in some of the proposals, the expenditure on infrastructure was too high. The Chairman emphatically ruled that CAMPA funds cannot be used for creating infrastructure at the hqrs of the Forest Departments in the States; these could however be used for strengthening essential infrastructure at the cutting edge levels of RFOs and below. However, the problem of paucity of non-plan funds for infrastructure at the Hq level could be solved by using the money accrued as interest on the Fixed Deposits of the State CAMPA Account.

7.3 As regards utilization of CAMPA funds through the Van Suraksha Samitis in Orissa, it was clarified by Shri M K Jiwrajka, Member, Central Empowered Committee that the orders of the Supreme Court requiring utilization of funds through the NREGA module were very clear, and departures would not be permitted; requests for departure from the Apex Court's directions had dangerous portents, the question was of accountability which cannot be ensured in Schemes like the VSS, etc. He also pointed out that the Apex Court's directions did not permit utilization of NPV money for plantation.

7.4. On the question of audit of CAMPA fund, the Chairman desired that an interactive session be arranged with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India at an early date so that the modalities in this behalf could be worked out.

[Action : IGF (FC Divn)]

8. The note from the DGF&SS on the National Forestry Knowledge Forum was considered. The Chairman clarified that the Forum was not contemplated to be an Organisation, or an Institute. It was meant to be a community of researchers in India and abroad, which would work as a facilitative Body which would go into issues of Biodiversity, Climate change, livelihood issues, peoples' movements, legal issues, and tribal rights. It could appropriately be christened as the 'Indian Forestry Knowledge Network'. On the constitution of the Body, the Chairman desired that Shri Promode Kant, IFS(Retd) should be included in the Forum. He also approved the proposal for inclusion of Shri B M S Rathore in the Forum. Stressing the inclusion of a woman activist, he approved the inclusion of the name of Ms Bina Agarwal. The Chairman agreed that more serving Forest Officers should be on board; he underlined the opinion making role of the Organisation and asked that



the draft Note be redone, making the objective crisper. He desired that people of stature should be included in the Network. Shri Jiwrajka indicated his desire not to be included as a Member due to potential conflict of interests. Shri Jiwrajka mentioned that if the intention was to employ CAMPA funds for working of the 'Indian Forestry Knowledge Network', the approval of the Supreme Court would be necessary. The Chairman approved the suggestion of Prof Ravindranath that the Forum should take up discussion on the scientific aspects of compensatory Afforestation. The Chairman retained the proposal for revision as per the discussions and suggestions of members.

9. The chairman allowed leave of absence of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra who had regretted his inability to attend, on account of pressing commitments.

10. The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

Annexure

Participants in the meeting of the National CAMPA Advisory Council (NCAC), Van Vigyan Bhawan, R.K. Puram on 24.06.2010

1. Dr. P.J. Dilip Kumar, IFS, Director General of Forests & Special Secretary
2. Dr. B.K. Gairola, Director General, National Informatics Centre.
3. Shri C. Madhukar Raj, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh.
4. Shri V.K. Vishnoi, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Assam.
5. Shri R.K. Sharma, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chhattisgarh.
6. Shri S.C. Mohanty, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Orissa.
7. Dr. R.B.S. Rawat, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Uttarakhand.
8. Shri Ansar Ahmed, IFS; Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi.
9. Shri M.K. Jiwrajka, IFS(Retd), Member Secretary, Central Empowered Committee, New Delhi.
10. Prof. N.H. Ravindranath, IISc, Bangalore.
11. Dr. D. Suryakumari, Director, Centre for People's Forestry, Hyderabad.
12. Shri S.S. Gahlout, DDG, National Informatics Centre, New Delhi.
13. Shri C.D. Singh, IFS, Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi.
14. Shri Umakant, IFS, Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi.
15. Shri H.C. Chaudhary, IFS, Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi.
16. Shri Ajay Kumar, Technical Director, National Informatics Centre, New Delhi.
17. Shri R.K. Pathak, Technical Director, National Informatics Centre, New Delhi.