

Minutes of the 4th meeting of the National CAMPA Advisory Council held under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent charge) for Environment and Forests on 25th January 2012

The Chairperson welcomed all participants to the meeting. A list of participants is at Annexure.

2. The Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ad-hoc CAMPA, Ministry of Environment and Forests stated that the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the National CAMPA Advisory Council, held on 24th June 2010 had been circulated to all concerned. No comments were received from any quarter. It was decided unanimously to confirm the said minutes.

3. The Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), Ministry of Environment and Forests and CEO, Ad-hoc CAMPA [Member Secretary, National CAMPA Advisory Council] mentioned that the total corpus with the Ad-hoc CAMPA was now of the order of Rs.25,000 crores, of which the principal amount was about Rs.21,000 crores. He also mentioned that since the year 2009-10 releases are being made to the State CAMPAs in terms of the Annual Plans of Operation forwarded by the States, and the overall limit of Rs.1,000 crores on annual releases to the State CAMPAs is being kept in mind.

4. The Action Taken Report of the decisions taken in the 3rd meeting of the National CAMPA Advisory Council (NCAC) were taken up for consideration first. The proposal of the Director General, Forest Survey of India for the National Forestry Information Centre which involved an outlay of Rs.77 lakhs was approved 'in principle' subject to its conforming to the CAMPA Guidelines. The observations of Prof N H Ravindranath, Member, NCAC that the Forest Survey of India has to play a greater role in the matter of monitoring of works undertaken under the CAMPA, was taken on record. Prof Ravindranath mentioned that the proposals funded under the CAMPA lacked quality and cited an example that even clonal plantations were being taken up, which were not in tandem with the spirit of the Guidelines. He suggested that efforts should be made to use CAMPA funds in properly worked out Schemes aimed at increasing bio-diversity.

5. In the matter of cases where 1st stage clearance had been granted more than 5 years back, but was not followed by 2nd stage clearance, it was noted that field inspection reports as sought for from the Regional Offices of the Ministry had not been furnished expeditiously. It was decided that all cases in which 1st stage clearances were more than 5 years old and had not been followed by 2nd stage clearances, would be treated as closed. It was agreed that the Regional Offices will conduct necessary field inspections in respect of such cases in the States in their jurisdiction, and furnish reports within the next one month.

6. It was noted that the National Informatics Centre (NIC) were ready to extend broad band connectivity to all Divisional Forest Officer level officers; even though States had been asked for information about DFO level officers and the status of broadband connectivity, information was not forthcoming despite repeated reminders. The Chairperson desired that the Principal Chief Conservators of Forests of all States should be requested to send to the Ad-hoc CAMPA, the list of Divisional Forest Officers who did not have broadband connectivity, within the next two weeks. The information will thereupon be transmitted to the National Informatics Centre.

7. The position about the receipt of Annual Plans of Operation was reviewed. It was noted with satisfaction that funds were released to the State CAMPAs expeditiously. The Chairperson desired that wherever Annual Plans of Operation received from States were pending, funds should be sanctioned in the next one week. It was also desired that States which had not sent their Annual Plans of Operation for the year 2011-12 should be reminded in the matter.

8. The proposal for introducing the Additional Chief Secretaries in States as Chairman of the Steering Committee in the event of non availability of the Chief Secretaries was dropped, as it was felt no longer relevant.

9. The NCAC unanimously applauded the steps taken by the Chairperson to move the Comptroller & Auditor General of India to expeditiously audit the expenditure of CAMPA funds in the States, and also, the fund management practices in the Ad-hoc CAMPA. The representatives of the States responded that the Accountants General of States had also begun to take up audit of CAMPA funds. It was agreed that till such time CAMPA specific accounts procedures are put in place, the procedures presently being followed in the respective States may be adopted. The Chairperson underlined the need for transparency in all aspects of the CAMPA functioning.

10. The proposal for establishment of the National Forestry Knowledge Forum was dropped.

11. The 'Fresh Agenda Items' on the Agenda were thereafter taken up, with the permission of the Chair.

12. In regard to the proposals of the Government of Orissa, PCCF Orissa informed that an amended Supplementary APO for 2011-12 had been submitted. It was decided that the Ad-hoc CAMPA will consider the amended proposals of the Government of Orissa for utilization of the CAMPA funds for afforestation through Van Suraksha Samitis. The Ad-hoc CAMPA will also examine the proposal for allocation of CAMPA funds for taking mitigative measures to prevent death of elephants due to electrocution and for which proper maintenance of power distribution lines was necessary. Allocation of funds to private electricity distribution Companies, was, however, NOT agreed

to. In fact it was observed that it is the duty of private Electricity Companies to maintain the transmission lines.

13. It was decided that the State CAMPAs should not work as Societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1862. Wherever States had registered the State CAMPAs as Societies, they should disband these so as to conform to the State CAMPA Guidelines. Further releases to such States would be subject to their disbanding the Societies.

14. It was noted that there was a gap between the funds actually available with the Ad-hoc CAMPA in State CAMPA account, and the funds shown against the various State CAMPA accounts representing unreconciled receipts. It was necessary that the position was reconciled at the earliest; it was underlined that reconciliation was in the interest of the States. While it was conceded that putting together all funds collected from User Agencies since the year 1980 onwards was a difficult task, it was agreed that all States will put the required extra effort for reconciliation of funds, possibly in the next couple of months. All Principal Chief Conservators of Forests will make special efforts in this direction.

15. In regard to the levy of cost of trees by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, in addition to the compensatory levies such as CA, Addl/penal CA, NPV, WL funds etc. it was noted that instructions issued in the matter on 11th December, 2008 unequivocally laid down that User/ Project implementing agencies are not required to make payment towards cost of trees, but are nevertheless required to make payment towards cutting, felling, logging and transportation charges of project affected trees. In this background, and also the requirement for uniformity in the matter of deposition of departmental charges/ felling charges etc., and deposition of safety zone charges and catchment area treatment plan charges in CAMPA funds it was agreed that an expert group consisting of senior officers will be constituted to study and make recommendations on this issue in a time frame. The request of the Government of Himachal Pradesh to implement the recommendations only prospectively – to obviate the possibility of legal claims for refund – were taken note of.

16. As regards the principles for release of funds to State CAMPAs, and the items of expenditure on which expenditure should be, and should not be permitted, like of providing vehicles to the functionaries above the Range Officer level, and also, about the provision of POL for such vehicles; and communication facilities to the field officials, the PCCFs present in the meeting argued that senior officers too should be treated as field officers for the purpose of providing vehicles and communication facilities, as they are required to tour extensively in their jurisdiction. The Chairperson observed that no view could be taken unless such requirements were examined vis-à-vis the CAMPA Guidelines and Supreme Court orders in the matter. She clarified that notwithstanding the paucity of infrastructure in the States, CAMPA funds cannot be envisaged as an avenue to substitute for the States' lack of resources.

On the paucity of plan funds in the States, the Chairperson opined that it is for the States to pursue for adequate releases; for spending out of CAMPA funds, an integrated set of Rules and Guidelines was necessary; it was improper to push all expenditure to the CAMPA. The issue of raising a forest protection force, which was raised by the then Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh; and the issues peculiar to forest deficient States which were raised by the Chief Minister, Punjab in his communications would also be appropriately examined and a view taken.

17. The future structure of the Ad-hoc CAMPA was deliberated upon, in the background of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The Chairperson observed that orders of the Hon'ble Court were awaited, following the status report filed before them by the Central Empowered Committee. The Department related Standing Committee on Science & Technology and Environment & Forests had, last year, intended to go into the issues related to the CAMPA funds – it was necessary to know if the matter had attained some finality. The question of appropriate actions in relation to the future set-up, following the lapse of the CAF Bill, 2008 could only be taken unless the situation regarding the future of the CAMPA funds becomes more clear.

18. The expenditure incurred on the CAMPA Workshop held in The Ashok, New Delhi in August, 2011 was approved.

19. The following proposals for funding from CAMPA were considered viz. :

- (1) enlisting CAMPA funds for strengthening of Forest Survey of India for monitoring Centrally Sponsored Schemes ;
- (2) near real time detection and monitoring of forest fires, with the aim of reducing response time to forest fires from about 36 hours as of now, to 2 hours ;
- (3) creation of a corpus out of CAMPA funds for 'Forest Research Extension and Infrastructure Support through ICFRE ;
- (4) setting up of (a) National Instt of Sustainable Forestry & Natural Resources ; (b) National Forest Documentation (and Communication) Centre; at Delhi ;
- (5) CAMPA support for Second Indian Forestry Congress, Bangalore in November, 2012.

It was agreed that support to such Schemes should ideally be found from out of the budget of the Ministry of Environment and Forests; the funding should be project related rather than out of the interest earned on a corpus; however CAMPA itself being in the nature of a corpus, the question is of earmarking corpus funds for specific items. The Chairperson ruled that the legality – vis-à-vis the Supreme Court orders and approved Guidelines – of setting up such a corpus will require to be examined.

20. For recovery of the NPV amounts due from User Agencies who had been granted 1st stage clearance prior to 2002, but were allowed 2nd stage

clearance later, it was noted that valuable time had been lost, and passage of time would render it more and more difficult to realize the dues. It was agreed that the task should be taken up and completed within the next 6 months.

21. The question of inadequacy of Compensatory Afforestation funds on account of inflation in cost of afforestation, over the years, was raised as an additional item with the permission of the Chair. The Chairperson directed that the matter be referred to a Committee of senior officers and experts.

22. The Chairperson directed that the proposal of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for the “Agri – horti – silvicultural Scheme” developed by the State Government which was termed as ineligible for CAMPA funding, be further examined from the point of view whether this could be covered under the extant CAMPA Guidelines, keeping in view the fact that large tracts of land were under community ownership in the North East, and Schemes had therefore to be developed where the peculiarities of the situation had to be taken into account.

23. The team of officers from the National Informatics Centre made a power point presentation on the two Schemes which had been assigned to them for formulation and implementation, viz. :

- (1) Integrated CAMPA Concurrent Monitoring and Evaluation System (now called “e-Green Watch”);
- (2) Web based proposal monitoring system for the FC Division.

24. The slippages of time in the matter of implementation of the Schemes was noted. It was approved that for finalization of the roll out of the Integrated CAMPA Concurrent Monitoring & Evaluation System [e-Green Watch] on a nation-wide level, a Committee will be formed under the chairmanship of Additional Director General (Forest Conservation), in which the Director General, Forest Survey of India, a senior officer of an appropriate level from the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad; officers from the Pilot States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Tripura and Karnataka will be associated. The Committee will complete its deliberations and furnish its report within a period of 3 months.

25. The Chairperson ordered that the issues relating to strengthening/reorganization of the Ad-hoc CAMPA; and moving the Cabinet in respect of non reintroduction of the lapsed CAF Bill, 2008 were not issues to be considered by the NCAC; these should rather be put up departmentally for her consideration and appropriate orders.

26. The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair. The Chairperson mentioned that the next meeting of the Council should be held after an interregnum of 2 to 3 months.

List of participants in the 4th meeting of the National CAMPA Advisory Council, held on 25th January, 2012.

1. Smt Jayanti Natarajan, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests ...
Chairperson, NCAC ;
2. Dr T Chatterjee, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests ;
3. Dr P J Dilip Kumar, Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests [Member, NCAC]
4. Shri A K Bansal, Additional Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests
5. Dr V K Bahuguna, Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
6. Smt Gauri Kumar, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Environment and Forests ;
7. Shri A K Wahal, Director General, Forest Survey of India ;
8. Prof N H Ravindranath, Centre for Environmental Studies, Indian Instt of Science, Bangalore [Member, NCAC]
9. Shri B S Sajwan, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Arunachal Pradesh [Member, NCAC]
10. Shri R K Gupta, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Himachal Pradesh [Member, NCAC]
11. Shri Hitesh Malhotra, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh
12. Shri P N Padhi, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Orissa
13. Shri J D Sharma, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests – Wildlife, Orissa
14. Shri S N Trivedi, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Jharkhand [representing Pr CCF Jharkhand, Member NCAC]
15. Shri B N Jha, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, North Eastern Regional Office, Ministry of Environment and Forests
16. Shri J S Walia, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Himachal Pradesh
17. Shri J K Tewari, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Eastern/ Western Regional Office, Ministry of Environment and Forests
18. Shri K S Reddy, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Southern Regional Office, Ministry of Environment and Forests
19. Shri A Zaidi, Chief Conservator of Forests, Central Regional Office, Ministry of Environment and Forests
20. Shri S C Mishra, Chief Conservator of Forests, Orissa
21. Shri S S Choudhary, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajasthan [representing Pr CCF, Rajasthan, Member NCAC]
22. Shri R K Goel, Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests
23. Shri M S Negi, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Arunachal Pradesh

24. Shri Sandeep Tripathi, Deputy Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
25. Shri R K Upadhyay, Chief Conservator of Forests, Tamil Nadu [representing Pr CCF, Tamil Nadu, Member NCAC]
26. Shri S K Khanduri, Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests
27. Shri Anoop Badhwa, Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment
28. Shri S S Gahlout, Deputy Director General, National Informatics Centre
29. Shri Ishwar Singh, Conservator of Forests, Northern Regional Office, Ministry of Environment and Forests
30. Shri H P Prakash, Chief Conservator of Forests, Karnataka
31. Shri R K Srivastava, Conservator of Forests, Karnataka
32. Shri Sunil Jain, Technical Director, National Informatics Centre
33. Shri Rajesh Pathak, Technical Director, National Informatics Centre
34. Shri H C Chaudhary, Senior Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests
35. Shri Shiv Pal Singh, Senior Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests
36. Shri Priya Ranjan, Senior Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests
37. Shri N C Saravanan, Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests
38. Shri Vivek Saxena, Private Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests
39. Shri A K Srivastava, Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests [Member Secretary – NCAC]

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 – 110510.**
Dated the 8th February, 2012.

To:

1. The Principal Chief Conservators of Forests (By name)
All State Governments/ Union Territories;
2. The Member Secretary, Central Empowered Committee;
3. Prof N H Ravindranath, IISc, Bangalore;
4. Dr D Suryakumari, Hyderabad ;
5. DG ICFRE Dehradun/ DG, FSI Dehradun/ DG, NIC New Delhi ;
6. Additional CCFs, all Regional Offices of MoEF.

Sub.: 4th meeting of the National CAMPA Advisory Council, New Delhi, 25th January, 2012 – forwardal of minutes.

Sir,

A copy of the minutes of the 4th meeting of the National CAMPA Advisory Council held under the chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests in New Delhi on 25th January 2012 is enclosed for information and further necessary action.

2. Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

(A K Srivastava)
Inspector General of Forests and
Chief Executive Officer, Ad-hoc CAMPA
011-24360467 (O)

Encl.: As above.

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to :

PS to MEF/ OSD to MEF/ PPS to Secy (E&F)/ Sr PPS to DGF&SS/ PPS to Addl DGF(FC)/ PPS to Addl DGF(WL)/ PPS to PCCF & MS NTCA/ all IGFs/ all Dy IGFs/ all Sr AIGFs/ AIGFs in the Ministry (including the NAEB).

(A K Srivastava)
Inspector General of Forests and
Chief Executive Officer, Ad-hoc CAMPA