

WEST BENGAL FOREST AND
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
PROJECT ID P223

Progress Report for the year 2013-14

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1. Launching of the Project

The Project has been formally launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, West Bengal on 16.12.2013 in a function held in the Science City Auditorium.

2. Establishment of HPC, Society and PMU

The Govt. of West Bengal vide its Notification No. 1048-For, dated 09.05.2012, has constituted the High-power Committee for the purpose of the implementation on the WBFBC Project.

The Govt. of West Bengal vide its Resolution No. 1450-For/FR/O/G/6M-12/12, dated 28.06.2012, declared to form a Society, the West Bengal Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Society, under the administrative control of the West Bengal in the Department of Forests for the smooth implementation of WBFBC Project.

The said Society has been granted registration under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961, *w.e.f.* 19th July, 2012.

The State Government, vide its no. 2623-For/G/6M-38/12 dated 21.12.2012, has adopted the resolution that the Society will establish the administrative, supervisory and monitoring mechanism in respect of WBFBC Project and will get the project implemented by the Project Management Unit (PMU) to be set up within the **Society and that** at the field level, **Divisional Management Units (DMUs)** and **Field Management Units (FMUs)** will be established under the Society.

32 DMUs have been established till date. Accounts of 31 DMUs have been opened.

63 FMUs have also been constituted under these DMUs.

3. Consolidation of Legal System for Institutionalization of Society and PMU

The Regulations and Byelaws of the Society have been duly framed.

The Operational Manual for the West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Society, has been prepared and approved by the Governing Body (GB) of the Society in its meeting held on 25.03.2013. Delegation of Financial Powers has also been approved by Governing Body of the Society.

Accounting Procedure for the Society has also been prepared and communicated to the DMUs.

4. Deployment of Staff

The proposal for setting up exclusive PMU for the Project has long been submitted. The approval of the Department of Finance, Govt. of West Bengal has been received. The cabinet approval for the same is awaited.

The Department of Forest, Govt. of W.B., has issued orders for the appointment of three (3) officers to the PMU, as Chief Project Director, Project Director, Finance and Project Director, Monitoring & Evaluation.

The Society, vide its notification no. 114/WBFBCP/7-1/13 dated 09.04.2013 has notified establishment of 32 (thirty-two DMUs). The accounts of 31 (thirty-one) DMUs have been opened.

The Governing Body (GB) of West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Society, in its meeting, held on 01.09.2013, has approved recruitment of personnel - 6 for the PMU and 81 for the DMUs under various categories - by the Society through Service Provider under the Provision "Support Staff of PMU and DMU" of the Chapter "Recruitment and Service Rules."

At PMU, 3 support staff have been engaged through Service Providers (Webcon and WTL). At DMU level, 6 nos. of support staff have been also provided through Service Providers.

In addition the GB of the Society, in its meeting held on 01.09.2013, has approved engagement of retired personnel on contract basis for PMU. Accordingly, one Joint Project Director and one Range Officer have also been engaged by the PMU. The details of the staff working (as on 31.03.2014) at the PMU and the mode of their engagement are tabulated below:

Sl. No.	Position	Mode of Engagement	Category under which expenses are to be met
1.	Chief Project Director	G.O. no. 1360 dated 11.06.2012 & no. 880 dated 10.05.2013, placing Addl. PCCF, Finance as CPD in addition to his own duties	Non-reimbursable
2.	Project Director, Finance	G.O. no 58 dated 09.01.2014 in modification of G.O. nos. 1825 dated 13.08.2012 & no. 882 dated 10.05.2013, placing CCF, Finance as PD, Finance in addition to his own duties	Non-reimbursable
3.	Project Director, Monitoring & Evaluation	U.O. no. 212/ACSF/14 dated 14.03.14 read with letter No. 7280/PMC/2E-318 dated 06.12.2013 of PCCF, HoFF and G.O. nos. 1825 dated 13.08.2012 & no. 883 dated 10.05.2013, placing CF, Parks & Gardens as Addl. PD, Implementation in addition to his own duties	Non-reimbursable
4.	Joint Project Director, HRD	Selection on contractual basis through inviting applications from Retired personnel	Non-reimbursable
5.	Forest Ranger	Selection on contractual basis through inviting applications from Retired personnel	Non-reimbursable
6.	Accountant	Engagement on contractual basis through Service Provider	Reimbursable
7.	Office Assistant	Engagement on contractual basis through Service Provider	Reimbursable
8.	Office Assistant	Engagement on contractual basis through Service Provider	Reimbursable

9.	Office Attendant	Engagement on contractual basis through Service Provider	Reimbursable
10.	Office Attendant	Engagement on contractual basis through Service Provider	Reimbursable
11.	Office Attendant	O.O. no. 4773 dated 05.09.2013 placing one Orderly from PCCF Office to PMU	Non-reimbursable

5. Selection of FPCs

A complete list of FPCs of the Divisions was collected and exercise for selection of the second batch (200 Nos.) was carried out with the Heads of DMU during the last week of August, 2013. The FPCs have been selected on the basis of information submitted by the Divisions in respect of individual FPC and grading them on the basis of the detailed selection criteria finalized by WBFD and shared with JICA.

The process of selection and results has also been discussed in details with Head of each DMU and the respective Circle-in-Charge. It was seen that the data on FPCs was revised and updated by a number of Divisions in the second stage of selection, leading to discrepancies in scores secured by the FPCs, selected earlier in the first batch. This has resulted in either elimination or change in ranking of a few FPCs in a Division. The scores secured by an individual FPC in the present selection process have been taken as final. The list of 280 FPCs (230 in South Bengal and 50 in North Bengal) is finalized and also been approved by the GB in its meeting held on 01.09.2013.

6. Selection and Appointment of Consultants

The Contract was signed in July, 2013, between West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Society, having its office at AranyaBhavan, LA 10A, Sector III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata 700 098, and consortium of Nippon Koei India Pvt. Ltd. (Lead Partner) having its corporate office at 12th Floor, B Wing, IFCI Tower, 61 Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019 and Nippon Koei Co., Ltd. having its registered office at 4, Kojimachi 5 Chome, Chiyoda Ku, Tokyo 102-0083, Japan.

JICA has conveyed its concurrence for the selection of the PMC and the contract for the services vide its memo no. JICA (ID) 25-523 dated July 26, 2013. The PMC has commenced the services w.e.f. 01.08.2013.

Training Workshops have been organized with the help of PMC for micro-planning, GPS equipment and Project prescriptions.

15.16 Man Months (MM), against a total provision of 163 MM of PMC, have been utilized till 31.03.2014.

7. Preparation of Micro-plans

The exercise for preparation of micro-plans has been initiated in the field. Drafts for about 10 micro-plans have been received.

8. Preparation of Management Manuals

Till date following Manuals/Guidelines/Designs have been prepared.

1. Guidelines for procurement NGOs
2. Guidelines for Baseline Survey-Socio-Economic Survey
3. Guidelines for Baseline Survey- Forest & Natural Resources
4. Guidelines for Facilities & Equipment for Biodiversity Conservation
5. Guidelines for TOR for Wildlife Research topics
6. Guidelines for Equipment for GIS

9. Production of Quality Planting Material

Central Nurseries are under establishment. Targets for establishment of 17 New Central Nurseries and for expansion of 18 existing Nurseries have been allotted to different DMUs. Funds have also been advanced to the respective DMUs for initiating the works. The draft guidelines, as prepared by the Afforestation Expert of PMC, in consultation with the PMU and field officers of the Forest Directorate, have also been circulated to the field officers for implementation.

The Central Nurseries are in the process of being established, but will take some more time to get fully functional. Owing to the declaration of the General Elections the issuances of work orders for procurement of Root Trainers have also been put on hold.

In the meantime, the seeding of all the major species, including Sal, has approached and the nursery stock will have to be built w.e.f. April-May, 2014 to have 1 year old QPM for the plantations to be raised in 2015. The issue was discussed at length at PMU and the Team Leader and Forestry Expert of the PMC was also consulted. The deliberations concluded that the seeding during the year 2014-15, must be utilised for the creation of 2015 plantations by growing seedling stock in polypots kept on raised beds with improved potting medium.

It was also suggested that the requirement of QPM for raising 2014 plantations may be made through selection of seedlings from the existing stock, based on health, morphological characters and seed origin data to tide over the situation.

The proposed deviations will enable us to meet the targets of Plantations in the year 2014-15 to some extent and in 2015-16 to a great extent. As soon as the Root Trainers become available the Central Nurseries may phase out the polypots as per the prescriptions of the MoD.

10. Construction of Administrative Buildings

The PCCF, HoFF, WB constituted a Committee to oversee the construction of new building at AE-391, Salt Lake, Kolkata and extension of AranyaBhawan, Salt Lake, Kolkata to be constructed under West Bengal Forest & Bio-diversity Conservation Project.

The GB has also approved estimates for these project for Rs. 1,22,09,327.57 (Rupees One crore twenty-two lakhs nine thousand three hundred twenty-seven & paise fifty-seven) and Rs. 2,50,23,746.95 (Rupees Two crore fifty lakhs twenty-three thousand seven hundred forty-six & paise ninety-five) respectively based on current PWD Schedule. It has been duly vetted by the Chief Engineer, West Bengal Zoo Authority, Zoological Garden, Alipore. Chief Project Director has also been authorized by the GB to approve issuance of e-Tenders. The process for the same is under progress.

No bids were received against first and second calls for tender for construction of new building at AE-391, Salt Lake, Kolkata through e-tender portal. Against third call, e-tender was opened

on 11/03/2014 and it was found that only one tenderer submitted Technical Bid. On finding the Technical bid in order, the Financial Bid was opened on 14.03.2014.

The rate quoted by M/s Anil Kr. Bose, the only bidder, is Rs. 1,25,73,328.00 only which is 2.98% higher than the estimated cost of Rs. 1,22,09,485.00.

The process of finalising the agreement formalities and issuance of work order will be taken up on approval of the GB.

The targets for construction of buildings for field staff have been communicated to the DMUs and the funds for the purpose are also placed to the DMUs which have submitted the estimates and locations of the buildings.

11. Trainings

Training Workshops (23nos.) for Frontline staff and FPC members on Microplanning have been organised. Frontline staff (519 nos.) and FPC members (about 10000 nos.) have participated in these trainings.

Hands on trainings (4 nos.) have also been conducted by the MIS & GIS Expert of the PMC for the field staff (100 nos.) of Western, Central, South East and South West Circles.

In addition two groups of officers and field staff (Total 30 nos.) have completed the Study Tours of Odisha and Tamilnadu where JICA assisted Forestry Projects are being implemented.

12. Procurements

Vehicles

The PCCF, HoFF, WB, constituted a Committee to decide on the model of Motor-cycles & Vehicles with justification for procurement under the WBFBC Project and to decide upon the distribution of the same.

There is provision for procurement of 10 vehicle and 100 motor-cycles to field units under the Project. The Committee discussed in details regarding suitability and specifications of different modes of vehicles and motor-cycles for procurement under the Project.

Based on all features, Mahindra Scorpio with 2 wheel drive, model EX with AC & Power Steering (7/9 seater) was selected for field units. For vehicle to be purchased at Head Qtrs, Maruti Suzuki Ertiga Model VDI Diesel was selected based on features. For motor cycles, Model Hero Super Splendor was selected, based on mileage, seat design, engine power & cost of the model and suitability on forest roads.

The vehicles and motorcycles would be procured through DGS & D rate contract on approval from GB. The allocation of motor-cycles and vehicles, so procured, to the units implementing the Project, would be finalised and approved by the PCCF, HoFF.

GIS Equipment

An inventory of the equipment with the Divisions has been carried out. The further requirement and the specification of the different equipment have been suggested by the MIS & GIS Consultant of the PMC. The same have been approved on 05.02.2014, by the Procurement

Committee, constituted for the purpose by the PCCF, HoFF, W.B. During the period under report, 90 nos. of GPS equipment, 32 nos. of PCs, 5 nos. of Printers & 25 nos. of Tally Software licenses were procured.

Equipment under Biodiversity Conservation Component

The list of equipment and its specifications has been finalized in consultation with the PCCF, Wildlife, W.B., his officers and the Biodiversity Conservation Expert of the PMC. The lists have been communicated to the respective DMUs for procurement and distribution to the Squads (in N. Bengal and Sunderban Tiger Reserve).

13. Budgetary Sanction

The Society received Rs. 55.08 crores as Grants-in Aid from the State Government during the year 2013-14.

The Society had also received Rs. 1.3525 crores as Grants-in Aid from the State Government in the year 2012-13. No utilization could be made during the FY 2012-13 as the fund was received at the fag-end of the year (28.3.2013).

During FY 2013-14, funds to the tune of Rs. 4.63 crores have been released to 20 (Twenty) DMUs for implementation of the Project Activities such as establishment of Central Nurseries, Micro-planning and construction of Staff quarters.

Expenditure to the tune of Rs. 2.56 crores, (consisting of reimbursable and non- reimbursable parts) has been booked till 31.03.2014.

Reimbursement Claims for Rs. 1.77 crores were submitted to JICA during the year. All the claims have been reimbursed by JICA till 29.03.2014.