

Office of the Chief Project Director  
West Bengal Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Project  
Aranya Bhawan, Block-LA-10A, Sector-III  
Salt Lake City, Kokata – 700 098

No.: 253 / WBFBC / 7-3/13

Dated: 09.09.2013

To,

1. The Addl. Chief Secretary  
Government of West Bengal, Forests Department
2. The Addl. Chief Secretary  
Government of West Bengal, Planning Department
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
Head of Forest Force, West Bengal
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal
5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
General, West Bengal
6. The Principal Secretary  
Government of West Bengal, Finance Department
7. The Principal Secretary  
Government of West Bengal, Panchayat & Rural Development Department
8. The Principal Secretary  
Government of West Bengal, Backward Class Welfare Department

Sub: 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of High Power Committee of West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project  
(ID – P223)

Ref.: This office memo no. 240 / WBFBC / 7-3/13 dated: 03.09.2013

Sir,

The first meeting of the HPC has now been rescheduled on **17.09.2013 at 3.00 P.M. in the CM's Conference Hall (II), Writers' Building**. The Agenda items with notes are attached for your ready ref.

You are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting.

Yours faithfully,

*sd/*

Chief Project Director  
W.B. Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Project,  
&  
Member Secretary, High Power Committee

No.: 254 / WBFBC / 7-3/13

Dated: 09.09.2013

Copy forwarded for information to :

1. The PA to the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal, Writers' Building with a request to bring this to the kind notice of the Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal and the Chairperson of the HPC.
2. Sri S. Barari, Chief Conservator of Forests, Finance, West Bengal & Project Director, WBFBC Project.
3. Sri S. Chaudhuri, Chief Conservator of Forests, Spl. Dev. Projects, West Bengal & Addl. Project Director, WBFBC Project.

Sl. No. 2 & 3 above are requested to kindly attend the meeting on the said date & time.

*Challenged*  
09.09.13  
Chief Project Director

W.B. Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Project,  
&  
Member Secretary, High Power Committee

**Agenda Note for  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the High Powered Committee of  
West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project**

**1. Presentation of Project outline :**

To be presented by the Chief Project Director briefly for the benefit of the members.

**2. Status of the Project :**

- (a) Selection of Project Management Consultant: Consortium of Nippon Koei India Pvt. Ltd. India (Lead Partner) & Nippon Koei Co. Ltd. Tokyo, Japan, has been selected as the Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the Project. 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, initially with mobilization of a team of 3 (out of 7) consultants. The Team leader and Forestry Expert as well as the GIS & MIS Expert have visited some parts of Bankura and Paschim Medinipur districts to acquaint themselves of the nursery set up, nursery practices, the documentation in office and also the FPC activities. Draft Nursery Manual submitted by the consultant expert is being reviewed.
- (b) Establishment of PMU & DMUs : The State Government, vide its Resolution no. 2623-For/G/6M-38/12 dated 21.12.2012, declared that the Society will establish the administrative, supervisory and monitoring mechanism in respect of WBFBC Project and will get the project implemented by
- (i) the Project Management Unit (PMU) to be set up within the **Society**
  - (ii) **Divisional Management Units (DMUs)** at division level and **Field Management Units (FMUs)** at range level, as a part of the Society.
- Accordingly, 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 and Addl. Project Director, in addition to their own duties. Also the DMUs (32 nos) have been established under the Society, vide notification no. 114/WBFBCP/7-1/13 dated 09.04.2013 of the Society. The accounts of the PMU and 26 (twenty-six) DMUs have been opened in nationalized banks.
- (c) Setting up of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and Appointment of full time Project Director and other officials with exclusive charge: The proposal for setting up exclusive PMU for the Project was submitted about one year back and has recently been approved by the Department of Finance, Govt. of West Bengal. The same now awaits Cabinet approval.
- (d) Selection of FPCs and Micro-planning: Out of 600 FPC /EDCs, the first two batches of FPCs totaling 280 have been selected and approved by the Governing Body of the Society. With the mobilization of the Capacity Development Consultant of PMC, the exercise for Micro-planning is expected to be initiated in September, 2013 and is targeted for completion by the end of December, 2013 for the selected FPCs. Workshop for frontline staff, on preparation of Micro-plans, scheduled to be held on 18-20 Sept, 13 at Hizli.
- (e) Release of Funds for the Project during FY 2012 and Budgetary allocation for FY 2013: The Society received Rs. 1.3525 crores in the last week of March, 2013 (2012-13). As such no utilization could be made during the FY 2012-13. During FY 2013-14, against budget provision of Rs. 55.08 crores for the project, Rs. 41.31 crores (75% of allotted funds) have been received by the Society.
- PMU has released funds to the tune of Rs. 4.06 crores to 18 (Eighteen) DMUs for implementation of the Project Activities such as establishment of Central Nurseries, Micro-planning and construction of Staff quarters.
- (f) Production of Quality Planting Material: Establishment of hi-tech nurseries (root trainer nursery) is one of the prioritized tasks to be undertaken this year (2013-14) for production of source-identified Quality Planting Material (QPM). PMU has released fund to the tune of Rs 3.875 Crores for establishment of 10 new and extension of 8 existing nurseries.
- (g) Construction of Administrative Buildings: For extension of office building at Aranya Bhawan and construction of building at Salt Lake, the estimates and plans have been drawn by the architect. The tender for the works are expected to be floated within September, 2013.



### **3. Tree Plantation Outside Forest Areas (TPOF):**

One of the component of the project is Tree Plantation Outside Forest Areas (TPOF)—about 2800 ha in 3 yrs. These plantations will be taken up in land outside forest area and beneficiary villages shall be selected for the purpose. As envisaged in the project document, a consent letter to be signed between Forest Department, Gram Panchayat and the individual beneficiaries (after they are selected) is a pre-requisite for implementing the TPOF activities. In this regard the co-operation of P&RD Dept is requested.

### **4. Community Development component :**

As part of the Community Development component under the project, Income Generation Activities (IGA) shall be undertaken. IGA will be implemented through the SHG groups in selected 600 FPC/EDCs, to create alternative sources of livelihood for forest dependent people. Seed fund of Rs 1.0 lakh will be given to each of the selected FPC/EDC and a maximum of 5 SHGs per FPC/EDC can be formed. Co-operation of P&RD and BCW department is requested for constitution of the SHG groups.

### **5. Security Issues :**

As per the project document (Minutes of Discussion) signed between JICA, Govt of India and Govt of West Bengal, before finalizing the target villages (FPCs), the status of security situation, especially in the affected blocks of the districts of Paschim Medinipur, Purulia and Bankura, should be confirmed by the Forest Dept with Home Dept and based on the outcome, blocks or parts of blocks listed therein shall be either excluded or included for project implementation (para 24, p 21 of the MoD). The project should be implemented only in areas where the law and order situation is peaceful (para 25, p.21 of MoD).

Presently, the FPCs selected (280) are all outside the blocks declared as LWE affected. Thus, the whole of Jhargram Division, major parts of Purulia Division, Medinipur Division, Rupnarayan Division and few blocks of Bankura South Division have been kept out of the purview of the target areas.

### **6. Launch Workshop of the Project :**

JICA Mission, in its review of 26.02.2013, has suggested that a State level launch workshop of the Project should be organized so as to create awareness about the Project and disseminate information to all stakeholders in the political and administrative setup of the state and also the non-government stakeholders. We may organize the workshop in the second half of November/first half of December, 2013

### **7. Any other issue/s :**

Issues may be raised with the permission of the chair.