

West Bengal Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Society
Office of the Chief Project Director
WBFBC Project
Block – LB-2, Sector – III
Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700 098.

No.: 296 / WBFBC / 7-3/13

Dated: 29.10.2013

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

Sir,

Kindly find enclosed minutes of the first meeting of High Power Committee (HPC) of West Bengal Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Project (WBFBCP), held on 17th September, 2013 at CM's Conference Room-II, Writers' Buildings, for information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

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

No.: 297 / WBFBC / 7-3/13

Dated: 29.10.2013

Copy forwarded for information to the PA to the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal, Writers' Building.

[Signature]
29.10.13
Chief Project Director

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

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
HIGH POWER COMMITTEE OF
WEST BENGAL FOREST & BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROJECT
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2013 AT WRITERS' BUILDINGS**

The first meeting of High Power Committee (HPC) of West Bengal Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Project (WBFBDP) was held on 17th September, 2013 in CM's Conference Room-II, Writers' Buildings. The following members and invitees were present --

Members:

- 1) Shri S. Mitra, Chief Secretary, GoWB -- Chairperson
- 2) Dr. S. K. Das, Addl. Chief Secretary, Forest Deptt. - Member
- 3) Shri S.B. Mondal, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, HoFF, W.B. - Member
- 4) Shri K. Sathiavasan, Addl. Chief Secretary, Planning Department, GoWB. - Member
- 5) Shri N.C. Bahuguna, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, WB. - Member
- 6) Shri S.K. Thade, Principal Secretary, Backward Class & Welfare Deptt., GoWB. - Member
- 7) Shri U. Bhattacharya, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, General, WB. - Member
- 8) Shri S. Dhaundyal, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Finance & Chief Project Director, WBFBC Project -- Member-Secretary

Special Invitees :

- 1) Shri S. Barari, Chief Conservator of Forests, Finance & Project Director (Fin) WBFBC Project
- 2) Shri S. Chaudhuri, Chief Conservator of Forests, Spl Dev. Project & Addl. Project Director (Impl) WBFBC Project

A note on each agenda item was distributed to the members present. The members deliberated upon each agenda item and the following decisions were taken:-

1. Presentation of project outline :

A brief presentation of salient features of the project including the targets, terms, conditions and funding etc. were presented in a power-point presentation by the Chief Project Director (CPD) for the benefit of all the members.

Decision:

This was an appraisal. No decision was required to be taken.

2. Status of the Project:

A brief on the status of the project was circulated earlier in the agenda note, which covered the following points. --

- a) Selection of Project Management Consultant (PMC) ;
- b) Establishment of Project Management Unit (PMU) and Divisional Management Units (DMUs) ;
- c) Setting up of exclusive PMU with CPD and other officials;

- d) Selection of Forest Protection Committees (FPCs), Eco-development Committees (EDCs) and micro-planning ;
- e) Release of funds for the project during financial year 2012-13 & 2013-14 ;
- f) Production of Quality Planting Materials (QPM) ;
- g) Construction of Administrative Building

Decision:

This was an appraisal. No decision was required to be taken.

3. Tree Plantation Outside Forest Areas (TPOF) :

It was explained by the CPD that 2800 ha. of plantations will be raised on land outside forest areas and beneficiary villages shall be selected for the purpose. As envisaged in the project document, a letter of consent needs to be signed between Forest Deptt., Gram Panchayat and selected beneficiaries, before the work is implemented. The co-operation of P & RD Deptt. was sought in this regard.

Decision :

- (i) Efforts should be made to maximize the number of SC & ST beneficiaries in case of strip plantation under TPOF.*
- (ii) Govt./ Govt. sponsored Ashrams Schools, University & College campuses, especially the new Universities that are coming up in Cooch Behar and Asansol should be included in the programme for block plantation under TPOF.*
- (iii) Guidelines for selection of beneficiaries and implementation of works under TPOF should be framed by the project authorities in consultation with P & RD and BCW Deptt. These departments will cooperate with project authorities to finalize the guidelines and to select the beneficiaries in the Panchayat areas prior to implementation of the project works.*

4. Community Development Component:

Under this project component, Income Generation Activities (IGA) shall be promoted through Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the 600 FPCs/ EDCs selected for this purpose. Seed fund of Rs. 1.0 lac each will be given to selected EDC/ FPCs. The CPD sought the cooperation of P & RD and BCW Deptt. for the constitution of the SHGs.

Decision:

- (i) A frame work for possible activities under IGA and the course of implementation will be drafted by the project authorities during the micro-planning exercise. While finalizing the same, the inputs from P & RD and BCW Deptt. may be obtained.*
- (ii) Project authorities should consider taking up IGA activity in the field of Eco-tourism by capacity building and training of the FPC/EDC members as eco-guides in Tourism areas in the vicinity of forests.*

5. Security Issues:

It was submitted by the CPD that, as per the project document, the security status of the LWE blocks of Paschim Midnapore, Purulia and Bankura districts should be confirmed by

the Forest Deptt. with Home Deptt. before implementation. It was confirmed that the present situation was completely normal.

Decision :

The matter regarding the inclusion of LWE blocks should be taken up with JICA.

6. Launch Workshop of the Project :

As suggested by JICA Mission in its review dated 26.02.2013, a state level launch workshop of the project should be organised to create awareness about the project and disseminate information to stake holders in the political and administrative set up and also to the non-government stakeholders. Opinion of the members was sought regarding organizing the workshop in the 2nd half of November or 1st half of December, 2013 to be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Decision:

The project authorities should send a note to the CM's office through the administrative deptt. requesting inauguration of the launch workshop by the Hon'ble Chief Minister between 2nd half of November and 1st half of December, 2013.

7. Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

No further points were raised and discussed.

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

(Sd. S. Mitra)
Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal &
Chairperson
High Power Committee
West Bengal Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Project