

West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Society
Office of the Chief Project Director
West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project
Block-LB-2, Sector-III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700 106

No. 1070 / WBFBCP/ 7-3(1)

Date: 08.04.2016

To

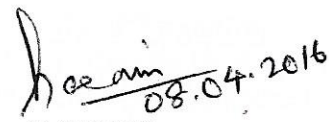
1. Shri Gopal Krishna
Addl. Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, Planning Dept.
2. Shri P.Shukla
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), West Bengal
3. Shri N.K.Pandey
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (General), W. Bengal
4. Shri P.Vyas
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & CWLW
5. Shri S.K. Das
Principal Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, Panchayat & Rural Dev. Dept
6. Shri H.K.Dwivedi
Principal Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, Finance Dept.
7. Shri C. Sinha
Principal Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal, Forest Dept.
8. Shri S.K. Thade
Principal Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, Dept. Backward Class Welfare Dept.

Sub: Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the High Power Committee of West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project

Sir,

The minutes of the 3rd meeting of the High Power Committee of West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project, held on 21st March, 2016 in the Chief Secretary's Conference Room at Nabanna is enclosed for your perusal.

Encls: As stated


(S.BARARI)

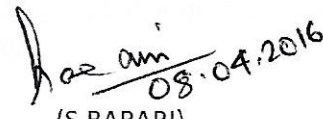
Chief Project Director
W.B Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Project,
& Member Secretary High Power Committee

No. 1071 / WBFBCP/ 7-3(1)

Date: 08.04.2016

Copy to:

1. The PA to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, with a request to bring this to the notice of the Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal & Chairperson of the HPC.
2. Shri S. Dasgupta, Project Director Finance, WBFBC Project
3. Shri S.Chaudhuri, Project Director M&E, WBFBC Project


(S.BARARI)

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

West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project

Minutes of Meeting of the 3rd meeting of the High Powered Committee

The 3rd meeting of the High Powered Committee (HPC) was held on 21st March, 2016 in the Chief Secretary's Conference Hall (13th Floor) at Nabanna.

The meeting was chaired by Shri B. Banerjee, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal. The other members present are listed below.

1. Shri Gopal Krishna, Addl. Chief Secretary, GoWB, Planning Dept. -- Member
2. Shri P.Shukla, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), West Bengal --Member
3. Shri C.Sinha, Principal Secretary GoWB, Forest Dept. -- Member
4. Shri P.Vyas, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & CWLW – Member
5. Shri N.K. Pandey, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (General), W. Bengal -- Member
6. Shri H.K.Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, Finance Dept. --Member
7. Shri Dilip Kr. Pal, Spl. Secretary, GoWB, Panchayat & Rural Dev. Dept. --Member
8. Shri S.S Majumder, Secretary, GoWB, Dept. Backward Class Welfare Dept. --Member
9. Shri S.Barari, Chief Project Director, WBFBC Project— Member Secretary
10. Shri S.Dasgupta, Project Director Finance, WBFBC Project –Spl. Invitee
11. Shri S.Chaudhuri, Project Director M&E, WBFBC Project –Spl. Invitee

The agenda wise discussion and the decisions / observations on each of the agenda are delineated below.

Agenda item no 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 2nd meeting held on 01.12.2014

No communication on the minutes of the 2nd meeting has been received from any of the members.

Decision: The minutes of the 2nd Meeting held on 01.12.2014 stands confirmed.

Agenda item no 2 : Action Taken Report on the resolutions of the 2nd meeting

The action taken report which is presented in Annexure –I of the Agenda Note of the 3rd meeting was discussed in details. The following points of the Action Taken Report were highlighted and deliberated upon.

Point no. 2 (ii) of the ATR of 2nd meeting: Security Issues of LWE Blocks:

The members were apprised and assured that works of the project are going on in the LWE blocks of Bankura, Purulia and Medinipur without any hindrance so far.

Point no. 2 (iii) of the ATR of 2nd meeting: Presentation of the Status Report:

- (a) The project authorities apprised the members that the copies of the microplans of FPC/EDCs totalling 600 nos., will be sent to the P&R Dept., the BCW Dept. and the concerned District Magistrates in phases.
- (b) It was clarified that the expenditure figures of 2014-15 of Rs. 22.54 Crores and cumulative expenditure till February 2016 of Rs. 57.02 Crores include Non-grant fund (i.e; INR equivalent of USD payment of consultant) also.

Point No.(iv) of the ATR of 2nd meeting : Procurement of additional vehicles and motor cycle under the Project :

- (a) A correction was made by Chief Project Director by informing that instead of the term **Department of Expenditure** mentioned in the 'Action Taken' column of the ATR, it should be read as **Department of Economic Affairs**.
- (b) While informing the members that the proposal of additional vehicle procurement has been accepted in principle by the Mid Term Review (MTR) team of JICA, the Chief Project Director also informed the members that very recently the MoEFCC, Govt of India, has also agreed with all the MTR proposals and forwarded the matter to the Dept of Economic Affairs, Gol for concurrence.

Decision / Observation:

The action taken report was deliberated upon and approved by the members of the HPC.

Agenda Item No. 3 : Presentation of Status Report

The Status of the Project given in Annexure – II of the Agenda notes was presented before the members by a power point presentation, with relevant photographs. The following points were raised by the Chairperson and discussed:-

(i) Loan Interest, Dates and Period of Project :

It was informed by project authorities that the Interest on loan is @ 0.65% on works and 0.1% on Consultancy; the loan period is 10 yrs after date of effectuation, which is 24.8.2012 and the project period is from 2012-13 to 2019-20 (8 yrs). The Finance Secretary informed that the total interest rate chargeable under JICA scheme would work out to 7-8% over a period of time.

(ii) Procedure of microplan preparation :

The microplans have been prepared by Participatory Rural Appraisal Methods with the assistance of the Project Management Consultants, Project authority and the field level staff at DMU and FMU.

(iii) The basic objectives of the Project :

It was apprised by the project authority that the basic objective is to expand green cover and simultaneously conserve biodiversity. However, unlike other projects the concept of Central Nurseries and Quality Planting Material (QPM) based on Root trainer technology has been introduced. It was also informed that Afforestation activities constituted approx. 39% of the reimbursable cost, which is the largest component.

(iv) Delay in Project implementation:

On being asked about the delay of project implementation the Forest Secretary informed that the project started 18 months late, because of various reasons including late constitution of the Project Mgmt. Unit (PMU), Selection of Consultants and preparation of microplans.

(v) Afforestation including establishment of Central Nurseries:

(a) The PCCF (HoFF) observed that the main component of project i.e. afforestation will be over by the next 2-3 years. Therefore the major project expenditure is expected to be over within the prescribed time limit.

(b) The techniques used in developing QPM through root trainers was also explained by the Chief Project Director which was appreciated by the Chief Secretary as the survivability and the quality of the plantation stock has improved. It was mentioned that owing to very high survival percentage (>95%) in the 1st year, the seedling raised in Central Nurseries could be brought down @ 2000 per ha. to 1800 per ha. Also the cost of production of seedling in nursery could be reduced.

It was explained that the growing medium being used in this technology is compost prepared from weeds, straw etc. and not soil. For this purpose lot of practical training classes for the field staff has been organized by the PMU. Member from the P&RD Dept. requested for imparting training to the panchayat members and identified SHG groups with regard to composting and root trainer technology.

The members were also apprised by the Chief Project Director that the Central nurseries created are capital intensive assets and will be used to raise QPM not only for JICA project but for all schemes. To this issue it was also added that the PCCF (HoFF) has already taken a decision to do away with the field nursery and to depend on Central Nursery concept of raising seedlings for all schemes.

- (c) The Chief Secretary observed that, it may be explored whether plantation in panchayat and others non-forest land (Social Forestry) could be done by improved technology and models of plantation. He observed that in urban / municipal areas, the major roads, including the newly constructed roads, may be covered by Avenue plantation, following the guidelines of Forest Dept.

(vi) Online Plantation Journal :

The project authorities explained that online plantation journal (e-format) has been developed under the project for easy data retrieval, analyses and decision making on plantations being undertaken under all schemes in the State. This will be a good monitoring tool also. This was appreciated by the members present.

Decision:

- (i) *The Status Report was approved by the members of the HPC.*
- (ii) *Training on composting and root trainer technology will be organised by the project authorities on specific request from P& RD Dept.*
- (iii) *The guidelines of avenue planting of Forest Dept. should be communicated with the Municipal Corporations and Municipalities*

Agenda item no 4: Convergence of funding of schemes proposed under JFMC^{*} based microplans

It was explained that the project provides for Rs. 31.20 crores under Community Development component, i.e; only 9.10% of the reimbursable cost of the project. Therefore, the average fund allocation for each of the 600 FPC/EDCs would be Rs. 5.20 lakhs. Since this was meagre compared to the programmes suggested in the microplans, convergence of funding from the respective districts could be done to meet up the cost of the programmes to a large extent. It was proposed that:

- (a) The copies of microplans will be sent to the respective district authorities shortly;
- (b) The issue of convergence by pooling funds under various schemes by the district authority may be agreed to and an advisory may be issued to the district authorities accordingly

Decision:

- (i) *Funding of works proposed in the microplans by the district authority under various schemes was agreed upon in principle.*
- (ii) *A centralised advisory in this regard can be issued.*

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

Sd/- Shri B. Banerjee, IAS
Chief Secretary, Govt. of W.Bengal &
Chairperson High Powered Committee

**ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE RESOLUTIONS TAKEN AGAINST THE
AGENDA POINTS OF THE 2ND MEETING HELD ON 01.12.2014**

Sl. No.	Issues	Resolutions	Action Taken
1.	Confirmation of the Minutes of the 1 st meeting held on 17.09.2013	The minutes of the 1 st meeting of the HPC held on 17.09.2013 stands confirmed.	Action Complete.
2	Discussion on the Action taken Report on the Resolutions of the 1 st meeting held on 17.09.2013		
	(i) Procurement of vehicles & motorcycles at DGS&D rates	Procurement of Vehicles and Motorcycles under the Project should be done by e-tendering as per the orders of Finance Dept., Govt of WB, as being done for other procurements under the Project	No action required at present.
	(ii) Security Issues with regard to LWE Blocks	(a) The Principal Secretary Forest Dept. West Bengal should take up the issue with the DG Police West Bengal so that he may suitably direct the concerned Superintendents of Police to co-operate and co-ordinate with the District Magistrates for issuance of Certificate regarding favourable law and order situation for taking up project activities in LWE blocks (b) The matter of issuance of certificate should be taken up directly with the District Magistrates by the senior officers of the Forest Dept.	(a) & (b) The matter of issuance of certificates with reference to the LWE blocks of Bankura, Purulia and West Midnapur districts was taken up with the respective district authorities. The clearance certificates with respect to these districts have been obtained and project work is in progress in the LWE blocks of the 3 districts.
	(iii) Presentation of the Status Report of WBFBC Project	(a) The activities implemented in the field should be properly recorded with photographic evidence and also geo-referenced for verification in the field. (b) List of selected FPCs should be sent to the P&RD and BCW Departments. These departments will give feedback on the SHG groups and their activities to the project authorities.	(a) The activities under the project are being recorded with photographic evidence and also geo-referred. For this purpose the Divisional Units (DMUs) have been provided with cameras and GPS. Also Online plantation journal have been developed to record all plantation activities in electronic format. (b) The finalization of the FPC/EDC list took some time owing to various factors. Presently, 600 nos. of FPC/EDC are finalized and microplans of 525 nos. have been prepared. Copies of the microplans of all selected FPC/EDCs will be sent shortly to P&RD and BCW Departments.

		(c)The target of expenditure upto the end of 2014-15 is fixed at Rs 40.00 Crores	(c) The expenditure upto the end of 2014-15 stood at Rs. 22.54 Crores (Rs 2.56 Crores in 2013-14 & Rs. 21.20 in 2014-15). Till date the expenditure in 2015-16 is Rs 33.26 crores. The cumulative expenditure as on date is Rs.57.02 Crores.
	(iv) Procurement of additional vehicles and motorcycles under the Project	Procurement of additional 24 vehicles and 150 motorcycles may be done following the process of E-tendering as per the circular/guidelines issued by Finance Dept	Additional vehicles have not been procured as yet. The matter was placed in the Mid-term Review of the project and JICA has accepted the proposal in principle. The final approval is pending with the Dept of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, GoI. Follow up action is being taken.
	(v) Reallocation of target under the project	Reallocation of target of various activities under the project for Buxa Tiger Reserve is approved in principle	Reallocation of targets of BTR has been done, in consonance with the Mid-term Review

Progressive Statement of Achievements

ANNEXURE-II

Activities	Particulars	Unit	Achievements 2012-13	Achievements 2013-14	Achievements 2014-15	Achievements 2015-16 (upto 29.02.16)	Total achievement (Upto 29.02.2016)	
			Physical	Physical	Physical	Physical	Physical	Remarks
Establishment of PMU & Institutionalisation of Society								
Establishment of PMU		no.	-	-	1	-	1	G.O. No. 1162-For/G/6M-12/12 (Pt. I) dated 13.06.2014. PMU in place.
Establishment of DMUs		no.	-	32	4	-	36	BTR E & BTR W are not participating in the Project activities
Establishment of FMUs		no.	-	63	78	31	172	
Posting of Officers on Deputation to the Society of PMU		no.	-	-	5	-	5	
Deployment of "Support Staff" to PMU and DMU	At PMU	no.	-	3	7	-	10	
	Circle Office		-	-	-	6	6	
	At DMUs	no.	-	6	67	-	73	
Preparation of Manuals	Manuals/Guidelines.	no.	-	6	9	-	15	
Afforestation								
Afforestation	A1	ha.	-	-	141.50	166.00	307.50	
	A2	ha.	-	-	176.00	406.00	582.00	
	A3	ha.	-	-	257.00	1,642.50	1,899.50	
	A4	ha.	-	-	1,129.00	3,036.00	4,165.00	
	A5	ha.	-	-	30.00	160.00	190.00	
	A6	ha.	-	-	20.00	110.00	130.00	
	B1	ha.	-	-	119.15	310.50	429.65	
	B2	ha.	-	-	45.28	19.00	64.28	
	Total	ha.	-	-	1,917.93	5,850.00	7,767.93	
Central Nursery	New	units	-	-	15.75	4.50	20.25	
	Expansion	units	-	-	6.50	5.50	12.00	

Activities	Particulars	Unit	Achievements 2012-13	Achievements 2013-14	Achievements 2014-15	Achievements 2015-16 (upto 29.02.16)	Total achievement (Upto 29.02.2016)	
			Physical	Physical	Physical	Physical	Physical	Remarks
Institutional Capacity Development								
Preparation of Micro-plans		no.	-	-	185	325.00	510	
Baseline Survey	Survey of Forest Resources	no.	-	-			-	RFP drafted. E-tender floated
	Socio-economic Survey	no.					-	Issued to NABCON on 13.01.2016
Construction of Building at AE-391		no.	-	-	-		-	Construction work completed
Other buildings	Group D quarters	no.	-	1	6	8	15	Target 15 nos.
	Group C quarters	no.	-	-	8	2	10	Target 10 nos.
	ROs quarters/Range office	no.	-	-	1	2	3	Target 5 nos.
Trainings & Capacity building	Micro-plan preparation	no.	-	23.00	33.00	1.00	57	No. of Trainings
		no. of Participants	-	419	854	24	1,297	Frontline staff
		no. of Participants	-	10,000	14,300	6,000	30,300	FPC members
	Usage of GPS	no.	-	4	27	15	46	No. of Trainings
		no. of Participants	-	100	582	31	713	Frontline staff
	Accounting Procedure	nos.	-	-	31	11	42	No. of Trainings
		no. of Participants	-	-	247	51	298	Head of DMUS, Head of FMUs & Support Staff
	Tree Plantation Outside Forest Area (TPOFA)	nos.	-	-	14		14	No. of Trainings
		no. of Participants	-		443		443	Frontline staff & Beneficiaries
	Nursery Techniques	nos.	-	-	4	4	8	nos.
		no. of Participants	-	-	113	104	217	Head of DMUS, Head of FMUs & Frontline Staff
	Package 2 for Middle and Junior officers in Indian Institutes Short term training (10-15 days)	no. of Participants				83	83	KFRI- Thissur, IFM- Bhupal, IIRS- Dehradun, IISC,-Dehradun
	Package 3 for Jr. officers, FR and Front Line Staff (inhouse or Indian Institutes)	no. of Participants				27	27	IIRS Dehradun
Study Tours	nos.	-	2	-	2	4	2 nos. planned in 2015-16	
	no. of Participants	-	30	-	35	65	Officers & frontline staff	
MIS	nos.	-	-	-	4	4		

Activities	Particulars	Unit	Achievements 2012-13	Achievements 2013-14	Achievements 2014-15	Achievements 2015-16 (upto 29.02.16)	Total achievement (Upto 29.02.2016)	
			Physical	Physical	Physical	Physical	Physical	Remarks
		no. of Participants	-	-	-	170	170	Officers & frontline staff
	Community Development	nos.	-	-	-	2	2	
		no. of Participants	-	-	-	80	80	Officers & frontline staff
Procurement	Vehicles-Mahindra Scorpio	nos.	-	-	10	-	10	Distributed to 10 DMUs
	Vehicles-Maruti Suzuki Ertiga	nos.	-	-	2	-	2	At HQ
	Hero Super Splendor motor-cycles	nos.	-	-	100	-	100	Distributed to 80 FMUs in 30 DMUs & 2 Training Centres
	Equipment-GPS	nos.	-	90	90	50.00	230	Distributed to 33 DMUs & PMU
	Equipment-Camera	nos.	-	-	90	47.00	137	Distributed to 33 DMUs & PMU
	Equipment-Computers	nos.	-	13	43	2.00	58	Distributed to 34 DMUs & PMU
	Equipment-Printers	nos.	-	5	45	2.00	52	Distributed to 34 DMUs & PMU
	Tally Software	nos.	-	25	12	-	37	Software for accounting in 34 DMUs & PMU
	Biodiversity Conservation							
Improvement of Wildlife Habitat in Protected Areas	Grass land Plantation in Plains	ha.	-	-	0.00	100.00	100.00	Advance cum creation
	Fodder tree plantation after bamboo removal in the hills	ha.	-	-	5.00	10.00	15.00	Advance
Studies	Studies	nos.	-	-	-	-	-	3 Topics finalised & work order has been issued
Equipment	Nylon Net	Sq. m.	-	-	500.00	-	500.00	
	Searchlights	nos.	-	-	25.00	-	25.00	
	Field gear	nos.	-	-	175.00	50.00	225.00	

Utilisation of Grants

Items	Particulars	Unit	Achievements 2012-13	Achievements 2013-14	Achievements 2014-15 (upto 31.03.15)	Achievements 2015-16 (upto 29.02.16)	Total achievement (Upto 29.02.16)	Remarks
			Financial	Financial	Financial	Financial	Financial	
Utilisation of Grants	Reimbursible	Rs. Lakhs	0	198.87	1702.96	2931.15	4832.98	Cumulative Total of fund released till date = Rs 124.99 Crore
	Non-reimbursible	Rs. Lakhs	0	56.63	295.5	315.78	667.91	
	Total Utilisation Grants	Rs. Lakhs	0	255.5	1998.46	3246.93	5500.89	
	Non-Grant Fund	Rs. Lakhs	0	0	121.79	78.83	200.62	
	Grand Total	Rs. Lakhs	0	255.5	2120.25	3325.76	5701.51	
Re-imbursements	Reimbursible	Rs. Lakhs	0	176.9	1320.38	2931.15	4428.43	
	Non-Grant Fund	Rs. Lakhs	0	0	121.79	78.83	200.62	
	Total	Rs. Lakhs	0	176.9	1442.17	3009.98	4629.05	