

## **Assam Project on Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Society**

### **Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting Executive Committee**

**6<sup>th</sup> April, 2016**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Executive Committee (EC) of the APFBC Society was held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 11.00 am in the Conference Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor D-Block, Dispur, under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam, Environment & Forest Department.

A List of officers who attended this Meeting is at **Annexure-1**

1. At the outset the Chairman EC-APFBC Society welcomed everyone present in the Meeting. The Project Director introduced the following team of the PMU to the EC:

1. Shri S. K. Srivastva, IFS, APCCF (Planning),	Project Finance Officer
2. Dr. Ranjana Gupta, IFS, APCCF (Wetlands),	Director Component-3
3. Dr. Alka Bhargava, IFS, APCCF (REWP),	Director Component-4
4. Dr. Amit Sahai, IFS, APCCF (A&V),	Consultancy Procurement Officer
5. Shri M. K. Yadava, IFS, APCCF ( P & D)	Director Component-2
6. Shri Utpal Bora, IFS, CCF (HQ),	Director Component-1
7. Shri Dipul Barman, AFS,	ACF-PMU
2. A brief presentation on the Project was made by Shri. A. K. Johari, IFS, Additional PCCF (Biodiversity & Climate Change) and the Project Director.
3. With the permission of the Chair agenda-wise discussions were initiated. The gist of discussions held and the decisions taken / recommendations made is as under:

#### **Agenda-1:**

- i. The Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting were validated.
- ii. It was decided to hold the Next EC Meeting with full representation of the Nominated Members.

#### **Agenda-2: Financial & physical Progress**

- i. It was noted that since the last EC Meeting on 31-12-2014, there was disbursement / utilization of Rs. 4034.27 lakh.
- ii. Physical Progress with respect to various activities was noted with following observations:

a. Component-1

- i. It is noted that so far 273 building units were approved under this component. Funds for 102 units amounting to Rs 694.24 Lakh has already been released and Rs.1101.39 lakh against 171 building units will be released after the Model Code of Conduct is lifted.
- ii. The Committee was of the opinion that for effective protection of forest areas demarcation of forest boundaries with revenue areas was necessary. It was suggested that demarcation of boundaries of forest areas shall be taken up under this Component. Implementation of this activity on pilot basis, in conjunction with other Schemes, may be coordinated by the APCCF (Planning). The AfD to be informed accordingly.
- iii. The Committee recommended that priority should be given to renovation of buildings meant for frontline force in the remote areas. The Social forestry and Wildlife establishments should be given due consideration in allocation of works. The PCCF (Wildlife) will submit a detailed proposal in this regard within 15 days time.

b. Component-2: Two proposals from The French Institute of Pondicherry were discussed:

- i. The proposal for development of Assam Biodiversity Portal was considered useful and recommended. The work may be assigned to the French Institute of Pondicherry observing due formalities.
- ii. The proposal for development of Species Identification Framework for Trees of Evergreen Forests of Assam, was not recommended due to paucity of time. However, it was suggested that some important features of this proposal may be included in the Biodiversity portal.

c. Component-3

- i. Progress in the creation and maintenance of 12,252 ha. of plantation under the following schemes was noted

Type of plantation	Allocation (ha)	Achieved (ha)	%
Assisted Natural Regeneration	2015	2095	104%
Mixed Hardwood	4845	4627	95.5%
Non-Timber Forest products	4455	4430	99.5%
Sal regeneration	1500	1100	73.3%
Total	12,815	12,252	96%



- ii. It was suggested to device mechanism for ensuring that maintenance of the plantation continues beyond the Project period.
  - iii. It was suggested to mobilize the field staff for ensuring that remaining targets for Firewood plantation are met in the coming plantation season.
  - iv. The Chairman desired to have dedicated session for discussions on the issues related to EDCs with the PCCF (Wildlife).
- d. Component-4
- i. The Committee was apprised about the formation of Consortium comprising of Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IEE) *Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi*( RGVN) and Centre for Microfinance and Livelihood (CML) for implementing the Micro-planning activities under Component-3 and Livelihood improvement activities under Component-4.
  - ii. The Committee desired that the matter may be taken up with Election Commission for relaxation in Model Code of Conduct to launch the activity.

#### **Agenda-3: Budget Related Issues**

- i. The Committee noted that against the State grant of Rs. 96.82 cr. released during the past four years, the Society has disbursed / utilized Rs 59.00 cr. leaving a balance of 38.00 cr. The Committee also noted allocation for the current financial year was far below the requirement. The Committee suggested to approach the Finance Department for allocation of required fund for current Financial year.
- ii. The progress in the Audit of the accounts of the PMU and FIUs was noted.

#### **Agenda-4: Status of Reimbursement**

- i. It was noted that against a claim of Rs. 30.48 Cr. made by the Society, reimbursement of Rs. 29.75 Cr. has been received.

#### **Agenda-5: Works in pipeline: The state of works to be taken up was noted by the Committee which made following recommendations /observations:**

- i. For the assignments on Working Plan and REDD+, further negotiations as proposed, may be made and the activities be launched as early as possible.
- ii. Priority to be given to exposure visits / Trainings of the frontline staff and middle level officers.



#### Agenda-6: Other Issues:

- i. Assam State Zoo Proposals: following proposals for Assam State Zoo were approved by the EC:
  - a. Animal Exchange
  - b. Enclosure repairs
  - c. Battery operated Train
  - d. Water supply scheme

- ii. Proposal for Enterprise Resource Planning was approved in principle with the stipulation that the details of the project will be put up to the EC for consideration in due course.

- iii. The EC was of the opinion that the consultancy for Monitoring and Evaluation be deferred for the present. After certain substantial progress in activities such as micro-planning, entry point activities and livelihood enhancement the M&E consultancy may be considered.

- iv. Annual Plan of Operation (APO) for 2016-17 with following summary details was approved by the EC:

	Rs. In lakh.
a. Component-1	55,00.00
b. Component-2	5,00.00
c. Component-3	50,00.00
d. Component-4	30,00.00
e. PMU	10,00.00
f. Studies/ TA	17,00.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,67,00.00</b>

- iv. Human Resource Issues:

- a. Tenure of contractual staff was agreed to be extended till the end of the Project period subject to satisfactory performance on periodical review.





- b. Re-fixation of remuneration of the contractual employees was approved as under:

Position	Present remuneration (Rs.)	Proposed remuneration (Rs.)
Programmer	18000	21,000
Computer Data Operator	16,500	20,000
Drivers	11,000	14,000
Support Staff/ Night Choukidar	8,800	12,000

- c. For use of Mobile phone for office works an allowance of Rs 1,000 (Rupees one thousand) only for PMU Officers and Rs. 500 (Rupees five hundred ) only for staff per month was approved.
- d. Festival Bonus for staff was not agreed to.
4. A copy of the Presentation made by the Project Director on the above Agenda Items is enclosed as **Annexure-2**
5. The Executive Committee conveyed its deep appreciation for the French Development Agency (Afd) for incessant support in implementation of the Project .
6. The EC extended welcome to the proposed Afd Mission during the first fortnight of June, 2016.

The Meeting ended with vote of thanks from the Chair to everyone present.

  
(Chairman, EC- APFBC Society)