

Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Body of APFBC Society and  
Review Meeting of the Supervision Mission of the French Development Agency  
12<sup>th</sup> June, 2016

The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Body of APFBC Society and Review Meeting of the Supervision Mission of the French Development Agency was Chaired by the Chief Secretary, Assam / Chairman GB-APFBC Society. A list of those present in this meeting is at **Annexure-1**

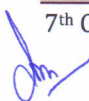
At the outset the Chief Secretary welcomed everyone present in the meeting hoped that the Mission members were able to complete their review as planned.

With the permission of the Chair, the Project Director made a presentation, which was in two parts, first related to the agenda for the GB and the second on the issues concerning the review by AfD Supervision Mission.

**A. : Governing Body Meeting:**

The Governing Body was apprised of the development since its last meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2015. Following observations were made / decisions taken:

1. The Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the GB were validated.
2. The GB noted progress with respect to following works:
  - a. Commissioning of construction / renovation of 171 buildings for frontline staff,
  - b. Regarding the HQ Residential building the Chairman desired that the alternative site shall be finalized within 30 days' time or else the construction shall begin at the original site at Rehabari.
  - c. Procurement and deployment of field-vehicles and special purpose vehicles.
  - d. Creation of additional 1000 ha. of firewood plantations through Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) since last review.
  - e. Progress in Micro-planning and livelihood-support activities through COMPELO ( a consortium of IE, RGVN and CML) in 60 JFMCs and 20 EDCs.
  - f. Commissioning of following consultancies:
    - i. Micro-planning and Livelihood support in 60 JFMCs + 20 EDCs
    - ii. Support to Working Plans
    - iii. Working Plans support in 21 Forest Divisions



- iv. REDD+ Pilot Project.
  - v. Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan through WII, Dehradun
  - vi. Architect support
  - vii. CA Audit
  - g. Strive to make Forest Department functioning paper-less.
3. The GB was informed that following studies / consultancies were to be launched soon:
- i. Assam State of Forest Report
  - ii. Wetland inventory and conservation status
  - iii. Inventory and management of Invasive Species
  - iv. Assam Biodiversity Portal
  - v. Support to PA Management Plans
  - vi. Research
    - a) Modern Nursery
    - b) Silviculture Plot
4. On the proposal for setting up of Van Bazars at different parts of the State with a Central facility at Guwahati, the GB suggested that:
- i. for better marketing of products, tie-ups with major market players, such as, Fab-India, Tejaswini, Central Cottage Industry, etc. may be developed.
  - ii. steps be taken to create a Brand name with Logo for products of JFMCs and EDCs.
5. The GB stressed on the need for developing a package of support activities for Kaziranga National Park and other Protected Areas. Watch towers, night-vision facilities and Battery operated Polaris vehicles could be a part of these packages.
6. For the house-hold fuel-wood dependency a study may be done with the help of Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, to workout LPG requirement in the State.
7. For the livelihood support activities, linkages with the Rural Livelihood Mission may be developed.

7. The GB advised that a comprehensive strategy be developed for sensitization of peoples' representatives ( members of PRIs, MLAs and others). It was suggested that good information material ( brochures and documentaries ) be developed for interactive meetings / workshops.
8. Regarding financial progress and the backlog in various activities of the project, the GB desired that within a week's time a comprehensive Matrix be developed with indication of each role-player ( officers from lowest to the highest level) with details of assigned activities, time-frame and allocation of financial resources.
9. On the matter of closing date for the Project, which originally was proposed as end of February, 2017, the AfD Mission informed the BG of the following three options that have been considered by the Government of India, during the Annual Consultation Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at Department of Economic Affairs, New Delhi:
- i. Extension of date of disbursement February, 2016 to May, 2016
  - ii. Advance disbursement of funds for utilization against ongoing committed activities within a period of 12 months ( June 2017-May 2018)
  - iii. Commissioning of Phase-II of the Project to carry forward and build upon gains of Phase-I

The GB was informed that for availing options (ii) and (iii) timely steps would be required to be taken supported by near complete implementation of Action Plan for 2016-17, commensurate reimbursements and full justification.

11. The GB approved following:

- i. Revised Annual Plan of Operation for 2016-17 ( **Annexure-2** ) with a total of Rs. 220.23 Crore, that included:
  - a. Committed liabilities for ongoing activities: Rs. 110.25 Cr.
  - b. New proposals: Rs. 89.75 Cr.
  - c. State Plan Component planned for 2016-17: Rs. 20.23 Cr.



- ii. Up-scaling of contract with CA Auditor to include onsite audit (of FIUs) for expediting reimbursement proposals against disbursed / utilized funds.
- iii. Need-based engagement of additional Accounts at Circle level for expediting account updating.
- iv. Raise in the remuneration of Accountant with PMU from present 24,200/ to 27.000/ pm
- v. Project allowance of 15% of the basic pay to the regular staff with PMU.
- vi. Continuance of contractual staff, on review of performance, till the revised project period.

#### **B: AfD Supervision Mission Review:**

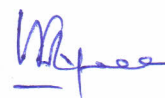
The Mission leader Mr. Emmanuel Fourmann, apprised the GB about their field visits to various parts of Assam and about the review they conducted with the PMU on various activities, especially with reference to their last Supervision Mission in December, 2015. The main points highlighted by the Mission included:

- 1) There has been satisfactory progress in the Project since the last review mission.
- 2) Plantations visited showed promising results.
- 3) Works of buildings and roads seen during field visits were also satisfactory.
- 4) Peoples' expectations are very high from the Project. The JFMCs and EDCs are eager to be engaged in meaningful activities and partners and to benefit from them.
- 5) Launch of Micro-planning and livelihood support activities for the members of the JFMCs and EDCs are encouraging but it requires a lot of hard work to build and maintain the momentum. Timely implementation of Micro-plans and Entry Point Activities (EPAs) was crucial to taking the project further.
- 6) For the (EPAs) Entry Point Activities, energy needs are of great significance. The EDCs may be considered to be supported through LPG connectivity while the JFMCs be encouraged to create sustained supply of renewable sources of fuel, i.e. firewood; and use of improved Chullah.

- 7) It was suggested that the details of Micro-plans be shared with the other Line Departments so that they may contribute to implementation of activities envisaged therein.
- 8) The APO for 2016-17 must be implemented in the true spirit of the Project objectives. Financial exigencies must embrace financial prudence.
- 9) The PMU must get ready to take timely actions for:
  - a) Achieving full implementation of APO for 2016-17
  - b) Seeking timely reimbursements
  - c) Preparing, by December, 2016, a realistic proposal with full justification for placement Advance Fund for 2017-18,
  - d) Scoping study for preparing draft proposal for Phase-II of the project
- 10) It was suggested by the Mission that it would be appropriate to engage an agency for making an assessment of impact of project activities vis-à-vis its objectives.
- 11) Documentation, through a competent agency, of the project outcomes, special those benefiting people, may be done to prepare documentaries ( 3 minute and 27 minutes) that may be useful in interaction with Peoples' representatives.

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


Approved



(Chief Secretary, Assam)

## ANNEXURE 1

SL. No	Name	Designation	Contact Nos.
1	Shri. V. K. Pipersenia, IAS	Chief secretary, Assam and chairperson Governing Body, APFBC Society	9435552142
2	Shri. V. B. Pyarelal	Addl. Chief secretary, agriculture, P&RD, Finance	9401017865
3	Shri. Sanjeeva Kumar	Principal Secretary, E&F	8811081266
4	Smt. Aruna Rajoria	Secretary, Planning & Development- Assam	9435058967
5	Shri. D. Mathur	PCCF & HoFF	9435595094
6	Shri. B.Brahma	PCCF SF	9435077396
7	Mr. Fourmann Emmanuel	Project Manager, AFD-Paris	
8	Mr. Cheikh Dia	Project Officer, AFD-Delhi	
9	Dr. Rakesh K. Agrawal	Project Co-ordinator, AFD Regional Office, Delhi	9873492494
10	Shri. D. Hara Prasad	PCCF LAZ	9435733865
11	Shri. A. K. Singh	PCCF CAMPA Assam	8811049289
12	Shri. S. K. Srivastava	APCCF (Planning)	9435080510
13	Shri. J. M. Kouli	APCCF UAZ	9435061860
14	Shri. A. K. Johari	APCCF (B& CC) & PD-PMU	8876565345
15	Dr. Alka Bhargava	APCCF (REWP)	9435568923
16	Dr. Amit Sahai	Addl.PCCF (Admin&Vig)	9435113256
17	Shri. M.K. Yadava	APCCF (Planning & development)	9435012458
18	Shri. Hirdesh Mishra	CCF	9435104711
19	Shri. Satyendra Singh	CCF, CAC, Guwahati	9435102834
20	Shri. Akash deep Baruah	CCF(IT) & OSD, E&F	
21	Shri. Utpal Bora	CCF (HQ)	9435146167
22	Shri. P. Sivakumar	CF, NAC, Tezpur	9435084183
23	Shri. Dipul Barman	ACF, PMU	9854143075





## ANNEXURE 2

### Ongoing Committed works requirements

Category of Works	Activity	Proposed budget Rs. In Crore
OFFICE EXPENSES		1.50
VEHICLES		1.00
CONSULTENCIES	Micro planning & Livelihood	38.75
	REDD+	1.00
	Working Plan	1.14
	Architect	0.50
	CA	0.10
	Assam BSAP	0.02
	PA Support	0.75
	Biodiversity Portal	1.50
BUILDINGS	Residential(HQ)	35.00
	Office(HQ)	10.00
	FIUs	1.00
ROADS	FIUs	2.00
ICT / e-governance	HQ and FIUs	5.00
Modern Nursery		1.00
Plantation	Maintenance	8.71
Equipment	WP and others	1.10
		<b>110.25</b>

### New Proposals

Category of Works	Activity	Proposed budget Rs. In Crore
Studies/Consultancy	Wetland Studies	1.20
	Invasive Species Studies	1.00
	State of Forest Report	1.50
Eco- tourism		15.00
Sal Regeneration		10.00
Entry Point Activities		35.00
Buildings	FIUs	12.00
Vehicles		10.0
Support to Zoo	Animal Exchange	1.00
	New RO Building	0.75
	Repairs	0.50
	Signage and others	0.30
	Roads and Path ways	1.50
		<b>89.75</b>



### State Plan Scheme Components:

Territorial	RDF Main	1.00	
	Silviculture Works	0.23	
	Subhansiri Area	0.30	
	Publicity	0.30	
	Amenities to Staff	1.00	
Social Forestry	RFW (Nurseries)	0.75	
	SF General	2.00	
	Assam Bikas Yojana	1.00	
	SF Park Renovation (15)	1.50	
	Medicinal Gardens	1.00	
	Officers Mess	2.00	
Wildlife	Reduced M. A. Conflict	2.50	
	NP & WL	2.00	
	Other WL Areas	0.45	
	State Zoo	2.00	
RE & WP	Research	1.15	
	Training	.85	
Biodiversity		0.20	
		20.23	
	Grand Total	220.23	

*[Signature]*  
B. G. Choudhary