



Government of West Bengal
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Project for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation
for Climate Change Response in West Bengal
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No: 605 /WBFBCCCR/5-5(6)/23

Date: 08.08.2023

To,

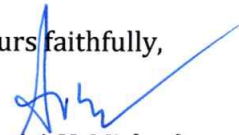
1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Directorate of Forests – Member
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden, Directorate of Forests – Member
3. Additional Secretary, Department of Panchayats & Rural Development, Government of West Bengal – Member
4. Joint Secretary, Finance Department, Government of West Bengal – Member
5. Chief Environment Officer, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal – Member

Subject: Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the High Power Committee of the Project for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation for Climate Change Response in West Bengal (WB-FBCCCR)

Sir,

Kindly find enclosed minutes of the first meeting of High Power Committee (HPC) of the Project for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation for Climate Change Response in West Bengal (WB-FBCCCR) held on 31st July, 2023 at 8th Floor Conference Room, Aranya Bhawan at 11:30 AM for information and necessary action.

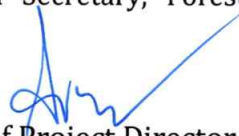
Yours faithfully,


(Shri A.V. Mishra)
Chief Project Director
WB-FBCCCR &
Member Secretary
WBFBC Society

No: 606 /WBFBCCCR/5-5(6)/23

Date: 08.08.2023

Copy forwarded for information to the P.P.S. to the Additional Chief Secretary, Forest Department, Government of West Bengal.


Chief Project Director
WB-FBCCCR &
Member Secretary
WBFBC Society

**MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE HIGH POWER COMMITTEE OF THE
PROJECT FOR FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE
RESPONSE IN WEST BENGAL (WB-FBCCCR)**

The 1st meeting of the restructured High Power Committee of the WB-FBCCCR was held on 31.07.2023. The meeting was chaired by Shri Vivek Kumar, Chairperson of the Society. The following members were present

1. Shri Vivek Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest Department, Government of West Bengal & Chairperson of High Power Committee.
2. Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Directorate of Forests – Member
3. Shri Debal Ray, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden, Directorate of Forests – Member
4. Shri BR Santosha, Additional Secretary, Department of Panchayats & Rural Development, Government of West Bengal – Member
5. Smt. Soumi Mitra, Joint Secretary, Finance Department, Government of West Bengal – Member
6. Shri Kaliyamurthi Balamurugan, Chief Environment Officer, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal – Member

The Chief Project Director & Member Secretary, WB-FBCCCR presented each agenda followed by discussion. The agenda were presented and decisions are given below:

1. Presentation of Project Outline:

The JICA funded EAP project on Project for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation for Climate Change Response in West Bengal (WB-FBCCCR) was signed on 29.03.2023 at New Delhi between DEA, GoI and JICA.

The project outlay has been earmarked to Rs. 650 crores which consists of Loan Component of Rs. 520 crores and State Share of Rs. 130 crores for a period of eight years starting in 2023-24 and ending in 2030-31. It would be implemented in 90 Ranges of 34 Divisions and would assist 600 JFMC's in their Socio-Economic upliftment. It consists of four major component viz. Ecosystem based Climate Change Measures, Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration, Livelihood Improvement and Institutional Strengthening.

The members of the High Power Committee noted the brief.

2. Roles and Responsibilities of High Power Committee:

High Power Committee was informed that this was the 1st meeting of High Power Committee of WB-FBCCCR which was formed for guiding the project, had been recommended in the MoD of WB-FBCCCR project and was constituted by Department of Forests vide G.O. No. 712-For/13099/19/2023 dated 04th May, 2023. The brief presentation on the Structure and Roles & responsibilities were presented by Chief Project Director for the benefit of the members.

The members of the High Power Committee noted the brief.

3. Status of the Project:

The activities taken up by the PMU so far for effective implementation of the project was informed to the members as follows:

- i. Preparation of Operation Manual.
- ii. Creation of Head of Accounts for the works envisaged and calculation of escalation and contingencies.
- iii. Preparation of MoU for CAT Plan preparation.
- iv. APO for Financial Year 2023-24 has been prepared.
- v. Selection of 600 JFMC's for the project where component 3 of the project, Livelihood Improvement would be implemented.
- vi. Taking initiatives for preparing specification for WEB GIS/Enterprise GIS procurement under the project (WB-FBCCCR)
- vii. Opening of bank account in Parent-Child-Grandchild format for PMU-DMU-FMU.
- viii. Work has started for online Tally hierarchy as per provisions in the project so that real time data and status of accounts are available round the clock.
- ix. 1st meeting of the Governing Body has been held on 22.06.2023 for taking necessary approvals and making recommendations for High Power Committee.
- x. One committee for Tall seedlings and another committee for CAT plans preparation has been formed.
- xi. Principal Secretary, Lands and Land Reforms Department has been contacted for necessary approvals for handover of KB-17 land for construction of Project Building under the project.

The HPC took note of the current status of the project implementation.

4. Approval of Annual Plan of Operation (APO) for 2023-24:

The APO for 2023-24 was presented in a detailed manner.

Decision: The APO for 2023-24 was approved.

The Chairperson of the Committee & ACS, Forests emphasized on:

- a) Enhancing the amount of Rs.115.47 lakhs in Activity-GIS Enterprise under Component IV titled Institutional Strengthening. The Chief Project Director assured that the matter will be taken up in MTR for the approval of JICA.
- b) The work on the proposed Elephant Rescue Centre in South Bengal may be started consultation with CWLW. The local DFOs may be asked to identify the land immediately. The work of Elephant Rescue Centre is to be prioritized.

- c) Arrangement for digging water holes & fodder plantation as suggested by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden to be taken up on priority.

5. Approval of Operations Manual for WB-FBCCCR:

Decision: The Operations Manual was approved by the members.

6. Approval for purchase of vehicles to be used during project implementation:

Chairperson opined that procurement of vehicles should be made in time bound manner. Before selecting model of Motorcycle, feedback from field may be solicited. In addition, Chairperson also opined that management of elephants has been successful in West Bengal, with increased numbers but has led to increase in conflicts with fringe population. Action Plan to mitigate this is need of the hour as West Bengal is a land starved State so food for elephant in forest in the form of fodder & water needs to be enhanced.

7. Miscellaneous:

- a) The Chief Environment Officer, Environment Department, Government of West Bengal expressed the desire to discuss with the PMU, the research projects in WB-FBCCCR, to avoid duplication with similar projects taken up by Environment Department.
- b) The Additional Secretary, Department of Panchayats & Rural Development, Government of West Bengal commented that building community toilets could be taken up in forest fringe areas with convergence of funds from Panchayats & Rural Development Department.

Additional Chief Secretary emphasized that community toilets be built in villages near elephant zones by Panchayats & Rural Development Department. Schemes to be prepared by DFO concerned and Panchayats & Rural Development Department may be approached for fund allocation.

The funds of Panchayats & Rural Development Department may be routed via District Magistrate of the respective district to the Forest Department.

The meeting ended with thanks to and from the chair.

Sd/-
(Vivek Kumar, IAS)
Chairperson of High Power Committee &
Additional Chief Secretary,
Forest Department,
Government of West Bengal