

**Minutes of the Review Meeting with Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Department of Environment & Forests, held on 3rd January 2020 at conference Hall of
PCCF & HoFF, Assam, Aranya Bhawan, Guwahati.**

List of Officers: As Annexure-1

A meeting was held on 3rd January, 2020 to review the functioning and issues pertaining to different wings of Forests for the perusal of the Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Department of Environment & Forests. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Assam welcomed the Principal Secretary and also felicitated. Newly joined Principal Secretary, Sri Avinash Purushottam Das Joshi, IAS asked for cooperation & help from each & every one of the department to execute the works in a better and efficient way. He pointed out that the department has several important issues which are to be resolved on time bound manner.

PCCF & HoFF, Assam gave PPT presentation on the overall administration of the department covering various issues viz. Forest cover, biodiversity, forest types, wildlife resources, etc. and also highlighted the statistics on India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2019 in respect to Assam & mentioned about increase in forest cover by 222 sq.km. over the Forest cover recorded in ISFR 2017.

Sri M.K.Yadava, IFS, Addl. PCCF (WL) and CWLW gave presentation on overall functioning of wildlife wing focussing on staff strength, protection infrastructure, status of APOs under CSS Project Tiger, etc. The Principal Secretary raised query on fund position, utilization and reasons for non utilization of budgeted amount and suggested for involvement of Self Help Group to play similar roles of Eco Development Committee. Apart from other distinguishing features in respect o EDC, provision for usufruct sharing, unlike SHG, was also pointed out. Important pending issues of wildlife wing viz. Release mechanism of Corpus Fund, non receipt of ceilings in respect to SOPD schemes such as Project Elephant, Man-Animal Conflict, etc. ex-gratia release, power of officers for issuance of technical sanction, etc. were also placed in the meeting.

The Principal Secretary has suggested for early submission of proposal on utilization of corpus fund for paying ex-gratia and subsequent recouping from SOPD schemes. CWLW also mentioned about Rhino Tank Force and works done by it in the past and suggested for similar Task Force for Elephant, which was also emphasised by the PCCF & HoFF. Regular meeting of State Board of Wildlife, meeting of Management Body of Tiger conservation fund & MoU based committee, Zonal Master plan for different Eco Sensitive Zones, etc. were also discussed in the meeting.

Addl. PCCF (A&V) elaborated on the steps taken for appointment of 1100 frontline posts, separate rosters for council & non council areas, advertisement for appointment after approval of roster, ongoing court case pertaining to earlier effort on appointment for Junior Assistant, etc.


Presentation on Research, Education & Working plan comprising issues such as training, was also given. Nodal Officer, FC Act gave details of forest lands so far diverted, violation of provisions of the Act and actions initiated, etc. Principal Secretary has suggested to do the needful on issue of regularization of large number of Govt. Schools established in different Reserve Forests of Sonitpur & Biswanath district and asked for early actions on obtaining the required documents from district authority & education department to finalize the long pending issues. Addl. PCCF (T), UAZ need to speed up the matter as one of the priority.

The Chief Executive officer, CAMPA gave details on the back ground, guidelines, regeneration & protection works executed by the CAMPA society so far, etc. He also elaborated upon provision of State Compensatory Afforestation Fund (SCAF), Governing Body, State Level Steering committee, Fund position, Physical & Financial achievement, etc. Further he also informed about amount available at present and the works under execution under APO 2019-20 and process of transferring of state share of entire CAMPA fund from National Compensatory Afforestation Fund (NCAF) to SCAF which is about Rs. 560.81 Crores.

CCF (SF) has informed about tendering of all works under different SOPD schemes of Social Forestry Wing and also steps initiated for the Signature project on roadside plantation. Addl. PCCF (SEO) gave briefing on present status of court cases and raised the issue of legal fee which need to be settled at an early. CCF (T), LAZ gave a PPT presentation covering entire gamut of issues of the including introduction, staff strength, Nurseries, SOPD, MCAs, Wood based industries, Forest villages, encroachment, Forest Right Act and its implementation in the zone, offence booked, etc.

At the end of the meeting, all the wing heads were requested to provide a brief note and important pending issues with the Govt. from each wing / component for taking needful actions by the Department.

The meeting came to an end with vote of thanks to the Principal Secretary, Govt. of Assam, E & F Department.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
and Head of Forest Force, Assam,
Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati

Memo No.

dated:

Copy for information and necessary y action to:

1. The Principal Secretary to the Govt of Assam, Department of Environment & Forests, Dispur
2. The PCCF & HoFF, Assam, Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.
3. The Spl. PCCF, KAAC, Diphu
4. The PCCF (Wetland), Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.
5. The Spl. PCCF(BD & CC), Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.
6. The Spl. PCCF (R,E &WP), Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.
7. The Addl. PCCF (WI.), Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.
8. The Addl. PCCF (HRD), Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.
9. The Addl. PCCF (Afforestation), Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.
10. The Addl. PCCF (FC Act.), Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.
11. The Addl. PCCF (A & V), Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.
12. The Addl. PCCF (P&D), Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.
13. The Addl. PCCF (SEO), Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.
14. The Addl. PCCF (T), UAZ, Guwahati.
15. The CCF (T), LAZ, Guwahati.
16. The CCF (SF), Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.
17. The CCF & CEO, CAMPA, Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.
18. The CCF (HQ), Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.
19. The CCF (Legal), Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati.



Chief Conservator of Forests (H.Q.)
Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati