

File No. NA-15/34/2020-NA
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority
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Hall No.1, 4th Floor
Block No. 3, CGO Complex
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Dated 22nd September, 2023

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary,
Environment and Forests Department,
Government of Tamil Nadu

Sub: Annual Plan of Operation for the financial year 2023-24 of Tamil Nadu State CAMPA reg-

Ref: The PCCF & CEO CAMPA, Tamil Nadu CAMPA, Government of Tamil Nadu's Letter No. TS5/27505/2022 dated: 06.07.2023, TS5/27505/2022 dated: 11.07.2023 and TS5/27505/2022 dated: 31.07.2023

Sir,

With reference to the above-mentioned letter, it is to convey the approval of the Executive Committee of the National Authority under section 15 (1) (i) of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 for the State Annual Plan of Operation 2023-24 received on 07.07.2023, for an amount of **Rs 44.149 crore** (Rupees Forty four crore fourteen lakhs and ninety thousand only) against the proposed outlay of **Rs 42.1712 crore** (Rupees Forty two crore seventeen lakhs and twelve thousand only) for carrying out CAMPA activities including the mandatory and time bound. The amount under NPV has been restricted to 25% of the NPV funds available with the State.

2. As per the decision taken in the Executive Committee meeting, the NPV component of CAMPA fund has been rationalized to less than 25% for continuation and sustainability of CAMPA activities aimed for improvement of quality of forest and wildlife habitat and essential measures required for forest fire prevention and control.

3. The Annual Plan of Operation 2023-24 was discussed in detail by the Executive Committee of the National Authority during the 24th Executive Committee meeting of the National Authority.



4. The details of considered component-wise activities are as follows:

Sl. No	CAF Act/Rules	Activity	Proposed outlay		Remarks
			Phy. Target	Fin. Target	
1	Site-specific activities as per Section 6(a) of the CAF Act, 2016				
	Mandatory Activity	Compensatory Afforestation	In Rs.	In Rs. Corrd.	
		i. Advance soil work	Nil	Nil	Approved
		ii. Nursery raising	100.989	1.118	
		iii. New plantation	113.820	4.536	
		iv. Maintenance of existing /older plantation	385.950	1.144	
		Catchment Area Treatment Plan			
		i. Watershed management			
		ii. Plantation to check erosion	5.000	0.598	Approved subject to approved CAT Plan and furnishing the detail of activities along with kml files and photographs indicating the Geo coordinates of the site undertaken by Tamil Nadu State CAMPA.
		Integrated wildlife Management Plan			
		i. Habitat management for flora and fauna (Food/cover/water management)	20.000	0.02	Approved
		Other (Site Specific activities in accordance with FC proposal) including chain link fencing		3.33	Approved subject to furnishing the detail of activities along with kml files and photographs indicating the Geo coordinates of the site undertaken by Tamil Nadu State CAMPA.
		Total site specific activities under CA		10.746	
		* Note - Details as per FC proposals as Annexure			
2	Activity as per Rule 5(2) of CAF Rules, 2018				
	5(2)a	ANR			
		i. Advance soil work	Nil	Nil	
		ii. New plantation	90.95	1.100	Not approved due to non-availability of adequate fund under NPV component
		iii. Maintenance	574.00	0.979	Approved
		iv. Nursery raising	663.00	2.626	Not approved
	5(2)b	AR	Nil	Nil	
	5(2)c	Silvicultural Operations	Nil	Nil	
	5(2)d	Protection of Plantations and forests	Nil	Nil	

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Sl. No	CAF Act/Rules	Activity	Proposed outlay		Remarks
			Phy. Target	Fin. Target	
	5(2)e	Pest and disease control in forests			
		Site specific measures for controlling pest and disease as per report of Technical Agency	Nil	Nil	
	5(2)f	Forest fire prevention and control operations	Nil	Nil	
	5(2)g	Soil and moisture conservation works			
		i. Water bodies (Name & size) a. Ponds b. Trenches c. Check dams d. Spur e. Retaining wall/Breast wall	32	3.90	Not approved
		ii. Any other relevant activities		0.05	
	5(2)h	Voluntary relocation of villages from protected areas	Nil	Nil	In compliance of the order of Hon'ble High Court Madras and as recommended by the Steering Committee of Tamil Nadu CAMPA, it has been decided to approve 80% of NPV amount available with Tamil Nadu State CAMPA which comes out Rs. 32 crores. [as per CAF Rules -5(2)(h)] the remaining amount as indicated in additional demand by State CAMPA in their revised APO 2023-24 can be explored to be met out by NTCA from CSS or State fund.
	5(2)i	i. Habitat management for flora and Fauna pertaining to a. Food b. Cover c. Water management d. Weed removal	619	2.353	Not approved due to non-availability of adequate fund under NPV component
		ii. Human wildlife conflict management	Nil	Nil	
		iii. Protection activities a. Patrolling b. Prevention of Illicit felling c. Eco-development work in surrounding village to reduce conflict	Nil	Nil	

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Sl. No	CAF Act/Rules	Activity	Proposed outlay		Remarks
			Phy. Target	Fin. Target	
		iv. Any other relevant activities (Working plan activity)	LS	1.147	Not approved due to non-availability of adequate fund under NPV component
	5(2)j	Planting and rejuvenation of forest cover on non-forest land falling in wildlife corridors	Nil	Nil	
	5(2)k	Establishment, maintenance of animal rescue centre and veterinary treatment facilities for wild animals	2 Nos	2.75	Not approved due to non-availability of adequate fund under NPV component
	5(2)l	Supply of wood saving, cooking appliances and other forest produce saving devices.	Nil	Nil	
	5(2)m	Management of biological diversity and biological resource	Nil	Nil	
3	Activity as per Rule 5(2) of CAF Rules, 2018				
	5(3)a	Establishment, Maintenance of modern nurseries	Nil	Nil	
	5(3)b	Promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity	Nil	Nil	
	5(3)c	Purchase and maintenance of equipment of devices for communication, information and technology (Details of equipment & devices)	Nil	Nil	
	5(3)d	Construction, up gradation and maintenance of inspection paths, forest roads in forest areas, watch towers, check posts and timber posts			
		i. Details of roads			
		ii. Watch towers	5 Nos	1.00	
		iii. Check post	3 Nos	0.20	
		iv. Timber depot			
		v. Any other relevant activities (Forest outpost at coastal area and islands)	3 Nos	0.45	
	5(3)e	Construction of residential and official buildings (Retiring room for ant poaching squad)	4	1.00	
	5(3)f	Casual engagement of local people or labours to assist regular staff of State Forest Department	Nil	Nil	
	5(3)g	Survey and mapping for APO monitoring	LS	0.3147	Not approved due to non-availability of adequate fund under NPV component
	5(3)h	Independent 11 concurrent monitoring and Third party monitoring and evaluation			
		i. Independent concurrent monitoring	Nil	Nil	
		ii. Third party monitoring and evaluation	LS	0.34	
	5(3)i	Publicity cum awareness programme			

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Sl. No	CAF Act/Rules	Activity	Proposed outlay		Remarks
			Phy. Target	Fin. Target	
		i. Publicity for common people	45 Nos	0.225	
		ii. Training for staff	45 Nos	0.225	
	5(3)j	Production and distribution of quality planting material (A detailed plan)	Nil	Nil	
	5(3)k	Forest certification and development of certification standards by agency	Nil	Nil	
4.	Activities as per Rule 6(a) of CAF Rules, 2018				
	6(a)i	To offset incremental cost of CA/PCA at increased wage rate		0.274	Approved subject to FC project wise reconciliation of data
5.	Activities as per Rule 6(b) of CAF Rules, 2018				
	6(b)i	Management of office establishment State CAMPA CEO with detail			
	6(b)ii	Office equipment including computers and peripherals and its maintenance	LS	0.15	Not approved
	6(b)iii	Hiring of staff cars for the use only for CEO office	Nil	0.15	Approved
	6(b)iv	Hiring of buildings on lease for office establishment and residences only for CEO	Nil	Nil	
	6(b)v	Other contingencies for management of State Authority	LS	0.23	Not approved
	6(b)vi	Any other activity for management of forests and wildlife with the approval of Steering Committee and included in the APO	LS	0.192	Not approved
		Total Approved	Rs. 44.15 crore		

Note: Hon'ble High Court of Madras in its order dated 8th August, 2023 in the matter of W.M.P (MD). No. 1962 of 2022 in WP(MD) Nos. 19771 & 23901 of 2018, 8222 & 19652 of 2020 filed by Thiru. S. Manoj Immanuel and others has passed following directions: -

i) the respondents no. 104 and 105 to forthwith provide funds by releasing the same to the National Tiger Conservation Authority/103rd respondent, who in turn will release it to the fifth respondent/Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, State of Tamil Nadu, within a period of two months from the date of receipt of the copy of the Order.

(ii) the sum thereof shall be disbursed and the relocation carried out within a period of one month thereafter.

(iii) Call this matter on 10.10.2023 for reporting compliance.

The Executive Committee of National CAMPA was informed about the orders dated 08.08.2023 of Hon'ble Madras High Court with directions to National CAMPA and State CAMPA for providing necessary funds to the State through NTCA for the purpose. The EC was apprised of the provisions of CAF Act & CAF Rules including those applicable for voluntary relocation of villages from protected areas.

The Executive Committee noted that the utilization of fund by the State CAMPA Tamil Nadu is very poor during 2019-20 to 2022-23. It is also observed that there is also delay in release of fund by the State Government to the

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State CAMPA/SFD despite the approval given by Executive Committee for the APO. The State Government has also not paid interest as per the provision of section 4 (5) & (6) of the CAF Act, 2016.

The Executive Committee discussed all the relevant sections and Rules and noted that CAMPA funds are special funds and there is no provision under Section 5. (b) (iii) of the Act for providing funds from National CAMPA Fund for relocation purpose since this provision already exist under other schemes like Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) of Project Tiger etc. and also the CAF Rule 5. (2) (h) provides for NPV funds of State CAMPA Fund for relocation of villages from Protected Areas. The AS&FA wanted to know from CEO, Tamil Nadu State CAMPA whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has utilized fund allocated to them under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Project Tiger implemented by NTCA. While going through the details furnished by the State CAMPA in the APO, it was pointed out that the level of utilization by State under CSS is very low. State has not even informed whether they have incurred expenditure from relevant CSS of Project Tiger. It was also not clear whether the State has made demand to NTCA under CSS in the previous years for the purpose.

The CEO, National Authority informed that Tamil Nadu State CAMPA was requested to revisit their APO to provide funds for relocation as much as possible from State CAMPA. However, the revised APO 2023-24 received through e-mail on 30th August, 2023 (Evening) without mentioning the amount of NPV available with them for relocation of villages. Tamil Nadu State CAMPA has not been able to obtain amount of accrued interest to State CAMPA fund which would have enabled the Executive Committee to ascertain the actual State CAMPA fund under NPV component. The Executive Committee, therefore, approved the amount of Rs. 32 crores as per CAF rule 5(2) (h) out of available fund of Rs. 41.0803 crores under NPV component for the purpose of relocation of villages from Protected Areas.

5. State Government is requested to release the CAMPA fund to the CEO, State CAMPA/State Forest Department immediately for carrying out approved activities in accordance with the APO 2023-24 approved by the National Authority.

6. The approval is subject to the following conditions:

- i. The approved activities shall be carried out as per Rule- 4 of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Rules, 2018 i.e. as per the provisions of the State Financial Rules or any such rules applicable from time to time in the State.
- ii. Utilization of State Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) shall be done in such a manner that at least 80% is used for afforestation, forest development and wildlife habitat improvement and up to a maximum 20% amount is to be used for infrastructure/capacity building related items.
- iii. All the records of CAMPA activities including amount sanctioned and expenditure incurred should be maintained by State CAMPA since its inception. The records should be properly maintained with Range, Division office and CEO State CAMPA in prescribed formats and placed on their websites.
- iv. A website of the State CAMPA should be properly developed, if not done earlier. It should have all relevant data, information, plantation maps, KML files of other assets and photographs of various activities carried out under CAMPA. In respect of CA, plantations/ regeneration activities before and after photographs should be uploaded.
- v. If required and approved by National Authority, casual engagement of only local people or local labours may be hired to assist regular staff of State Forest Department for works for protection of forest and wildlife to be undertaken from State fund as per rule 5(3)(f).
- vi. Monitoring and evaluation of the works undertaken shall be the highest priority for the State Authorities. Executive Committee and Steering Committee of all the State/UT Authorities should ensure adequate measures for regular internal and third-party monitoring and evaluation of CAMPA activities on regular basis. For third party monitoring, State should engage agencies, who are professionally/ technically competent and independent of the State Government.

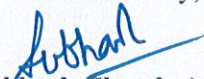


- vii. The monitoring and evaluation report of the works done up to the year 2021-22 must be available to National Authority (NA). Similarly report on CAMPA activities taken up in 2022-23 should be made available to the NA.
- viii. A statement that the Annual Report, Annual accounts and the Audit Report together with a memorandum of action taken on recommendations contained therein has been laid in each house of the State legislature as per requirements of section 29 of the CAF Act 2016, shall be invariably submitted with the proposal for approval of the APO by the EC of NA.
- ix. Prior to implementation of approved APOs, the EC of the State Authority shall ensure that a certificate is available with them to the effect that the proposed activities are being taken up after due consultation with Gram Sabha and are as per provisions of FRA 2006. Activities proposed in forest areas are in consonance with approved working plan; and activities proposed in protected areas (PAs) are in consonance with approved State Wildlife Management Plan, whereas activities proposed in forest fire prevention and control operations should be as per Integrated Fire Management Plan of the state.
- x. Soil and Moisture Conservation works should be carried out in an integrated manner from ridge to valley approach in degraded forests. This shall focus on rejuvenation of rivers and achievements should be placed as per the DPRs for 13 major rivers released by MoEF&CC recently. APOs in future should indicate the reference of DPRs being implemented. The data of afforestation, aided forest regeneration and efforts for increasing tree cover outside should be shared with FSI for continuous assessment of green cover and evaluation. If not part of the above mentioned DPR, then state should take it up as per planned activity approved by State Government or in working plan.
- xi. The State /UTs Authorities should make a detail record of total forest land transferred and compensatory afforestation carried out/ compensated the loss of green cover/ecosystem services.
- xii. The State EC shall also ensure that there is no overlapping of activities / funding with other schemes and may provide a certificate to that effect.
- xiii. Local and indigenous species, especially fruit and fodder species should be given preference in afforestation/ regeneration to be carried out; monoculture and planting of exotic species should be avoided.
- xiv. Compensating the loss of ecological services due to forest diversion for non-forestry purposes is the main objective of Compensatory Afforestation Fund. Regeneration and development of forests should, therefore, be given priority in degraded forests as well as non-forest lands. Priority should also be accorded to labour intensive activities for regeneration and development of forests and wildlife habitat.
- xv. The Executive Committee of the State shall also ensure that proposed activities have adequate forward and backward linkages and are being taken up as per prevailing approved minimum wage rate, schedule of rates, model estimates etc.
- xvi. There should not be any reduction in allocation for forestry sector in the regular State Budget due to flow of CAMPA funds to the states. In addition, the State Government shall also make timely and adequate budget provision as per approved APO and release money so that approved activities could be implemented in time.
- xvii. Works related to Eco-tourism and Eco-development should be taken up following relevant rules and guidelines after taking necessary approvals.
- xviii. Purchase of vehicles is not permitted. Vehicles are to be hired as per approved APO. The repair/ maintenance of vehicles shall be limited to the vehicles purchased from the CAMPA funds previously.
- xix. IRO shall also monitor and evaluate CAMPA activities. The State CAMPA Authority shall keep sufficient budgetary provisions for monitoring by IRO, in the State APOs under monitoring head. IRO should submit the Monitoring and Evaluation reports within three to four months to National Authority.
- xx. The States/UTs CAMPA Authority shall complete the works approved in APO within the year and avoid any spill over for the next year. It is important to complete mandatory activities first and

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- utilize the released funds for maintenance of CAMPA activities under NPV & Interest components before starting new activities.
- xxi. The States/UTs Authority are proposing engagement of casual labours for protection of Forests for the entire State. It clarified that such item can be considered only for around the forest areas where the land transfer has taken place and need special protection owing to the developmental activities.
- xxii. The validity of APO (2023-24) shall expire on 31.03.2024. Further continuation of the incomplete activities shall be permissible only if they are included in the APO (2024-25) and are approved by NA.
- xxiii. The States/UTs Authorities shall work out details of funds available with the State CAMPA head-wise under CA/ CAT Plan/ Wildlife Mitigation Plan, NPV and interest components etc. after deducting the expenditure incurred and prepare Annual Plan of operation for next year based on CAMPA funds available with the State/UT. Priority shall be given to the mandatory activities including commitment on maintenance of previous years.
- xxiv. All wage payments should be made through direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Yours faithfully,


(Subhash Chandra)
Chief Executive Officer

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and (HoFF)-cum Chairperson, The Executive Committee of the State CAMPA, Department of Forest, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
2. The Chief Executive Officer, Tamil Nadu State CAMPA, Chennai
3. The Secretary, Department of Finance, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
4. The Secretary, Department of Planning, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
5. The Accountant General, Tamil Nadu, Chennai

Copy also forwarded through email to:

1. The DGF&SS, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, for kind information.
2. The Deputy Director General of Forest (Central), Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Chennai.
3. IFD/Sanction Folder/ Guard File.
4. NIC Cell with a request to upload the sanction order on the official website of MoEF&CC.


(Subhash Chandra)
Chief Executive Officer