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OFSDP

ODISHA FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
SFTRI Campus, Ghatikia,
Bhubaneswar-751 003

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From:

Vinod Kumar,I.F.S.
Project Director & Member-Secretary,
Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society.

To

All Members,
High Power Committee,
Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society.

(Addl.Chief Secretary to Government, Finance Department.
Addl.Chief Secretary to Government,Revenue & Disaster Management Department.
Principal Secretary to Government, Forest & Environment Department.
Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, Panchayati Raj Department.
Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government,ST & SC Development Department.
Special Secretary to Government,Planning & Coordination Department.
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha.
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha).

Sub: 8th meeting of the High Power Committee(HPC) of OFSDS – Proceedings.

Sir,

A copy of the approved proceedings of the 8th High Power Committee meeting of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society(OFSDS) held on 09th July, 2013 at 12.30 PM in the Conference Hall of Chief Secretary, Odisha under the Chairmanship of Sri Jugal Kishore Mohapatra,IAS, Chief Secretary, Odisha and President, OFSDS and Chairperson, HPC is enclosed herewith.

The receipt of the approved proceedings may please be acknowledged.

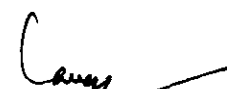
Yours faithfully,



Project Director
and Member-Secretary,OFSDS

Encl:as above.

Copy with a copy of the approved proceedings of the 8th High Power Committee meeting of OFSDS forwarded to the Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, Odisha for kind information of the Chief Secretary, Odisha and Chairperson, High Power Committee of OFSDS.



Project Director
and Member-Secretary,OFSDS

Encl:as above.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE HIGH POWER COMMITTEE OF ODISHA FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY HELD ON 9TH JULY, 2013 AT 12.30 P.M, IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF CHIEF SECRETARY, ODISHA

The 8th meeting of the High Power Committee (HPC) of the Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Jugal Kishore Mohapatra, IAS, Chief Secretary, Odisha and President, OFSDS on 9th July, 2013 at 12.30 PM in the Conference Hall of Chief Secretary, Odisha. The list of members present is at *Annexure-'A'*.

At the outset, the Project Director, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project and Member Secretary, HPC welcomed all the members and initiated the discussions. Thereafter the Joint Project Director gave a detailed presentation based on the agenda items. The brief minutes of the discussions and directions of the High Powered Committee are :-

1. **Confirmation of previous proceeding :** The proceedings of 7th meeting of the High Power Committee held on the 11th June 2012 communicated to all members vide letter No 1837/OFSDP-110/07 dated 22.06.2012 was confirmed.
2. **Financial status of the project :** The initial project outlay was ₹659.79 Crore with loan assistance from JICA for ₹559.69 Crore. The project was extended for 2 years, till 2014-15 and the budget was revised to ₹802.30 Crore, due to savings on currency exchange rate variations. So far ₹567.42 Crore has been utilized out of which ₹483.69 crore is the loan component. The project has planned to utilize ₹122 Crore during 2013-14 and ₹ 61 Crore during 2014-15 under the loan component. Accordingly, by end of the project period ₹666 Crore would be utilized as loan.
3. **Compliances to the decisions of the 7th HPC meeting:** The action taken reported as stated below were discussed.

i. Utilizing the balance surplus funds under OFSDP:

The scope of intensifying Non-JFM teak plantations and forest improvement activities as per approved working plan prescriptions was explored by the project. PCCF, Odisha had also diverted the plantation targets under 13th Finance Commission grants from the project divisions to other divisions, so that more project funds could be used. Accordingly, additional works were planned which include 1,785 ha of Non-JFM teak plantations, forest improvement activities, water bodies, solar power fencing to reduce human-wild animal conflicts and establishment of one Hi-tech nurseries in project divisions.

Compared to the original loan amount of ₹559.69 Crore, the project has planned to utilize ₹666.69 Crore by 2014-15, including additional interventions. However with the

continued weakening of the Rupee, the unutilized loan at present exchange rate would be around ₹73 Crore.

ii. Harvesting of Casuarina Plantations for replanting:

The project had a target for undertaking 650 ha of Casuarina plantation along the Balasore and Bhadrak coast as shelter belts. So far 141 ha have been planted out of which 122 ha is taken up over vacant lands and 19 ha have been harvested and replanted. However additional area for harvesting is not forthcoming as communities have been reluctant to cut the trees for replanting. PCCF Odisha had also requested the Field Director STR and RCCF, Baripada during the DFO's Conference held in Aug 2012 to review the field situation. Accordingly RCCF, Baripada has reviewed and recommended for postponement of harvesting the existing casuarina due to local situation.

iii. Area under NON-JFM plantations:

Out of a target of 19,000 ha, an area of 12,932 ha have been taken up till 2012-13. Further, during 2013-14, an area of 1800 ha had been planned and on field verification with GPS mapping the area is fixed to 1,785 ha. Continuous review for achieving the targeted AR area has been taken up by the PMU. The PCCF, Odisha had also reviewed the possibility for taking up more area under Non-JFM plantations during December 2012. No further scope of AR teak plantations in working plan areas of project divisions upto 2015 prescription could be realized.

iv. Ecotourism in Chotkei:

Community based ecotourism initiative has been developed by the project in Chotkei, in Satkosia Tiger Reserve. A nature camp consisting of 5 eco friendly cottages have been constructed involving compressed earth bricks and bamboo. The ecotourism group members consisting of 24 poor households have been repeatedly trained at the Institute of Hotel Management and Catering, Bhubaneswar for hospitality management, catering, reception services etc. The ecotourism group has been exposed to reputed hotels and resorts so as to improve their aptitude and hospitality management skills. The nature camp has earned more than ₹22 lakhs, out of which ₹2.2 lakh has been shared with the village community.

v. IGA activities shared with other schemes and NRLM:

The processes adopted for implementing Income Generation Activities under the project have been shared with other line agencies at the district level, block level and GP levels. This has enabled convergence on IGA activities with Agriculture, Horticulture, Watershed Development, Fishery, Animal Resources etc. Further credit linkages with banks

have also been established. This has strengthened the capacities of SHGs and Clusters to access IGA related schemes of line departments, establish market linkages and sustain these when the project withdraws. The project also had detailed discussions with the NRLM and World Bank officials during March 2013 so as to share best practices and formulate plans to link SHG clusters and NTFP business with NRLM during project withdrawal.

- 4. Review of progress of project activities:** Subsequent to 7th HPC meeting held on 11th June 2012, the project activities have been reviewed during the 15th and 16th meeting of the Governing Body held in Oct 2012 and in April 2013; during the DFO Conference in Aug 2012; by MoEF GoI in Oct 2012 and by JICA Mission in September 2012.

Out of the targeted restoration of degraded forests of 1,96,650 ha, and 2,810 ha of coastal plantations, project has achieved for 2,08,920 ha forest restoration and 2910 ha of coastal plantations.

During the course of discussion of the project activities the HPC observed and directed for the following to be taken up by the project further:

- i. *The Chief Secretary viewed that the overall aim of restoration of degraded forests should be to achieve changes from open forests to moderately dense forests. In order to achieve this, the project may adopt flexible treatment approaches and improvement on present model of ANR with gap planting limited to 200 plants irrespective of field conditions. The Project Director informed that ANR practices implemented in OFSDP have aimed for retaining biodiversity and improving forest growth. The Chief Secretary emphasized that OFSDP should develop model guidelines on ANR with gap interventions for planting even more seedlings to adapt to the specific site conditions which shall influence conversion of forest cover density from open forests (upto 40%) to moderately dense forests (upto 70%) in a short period.*
- ii. *The Committee observed that Geographical Information System (GIS) tools are being used to monitor the forest treatment activities under the project. The vegetation changes detected in the intervention areas need to be periodically monitored using Remote Sensing and GIS tools by the department. The department should continue tracking changes at intervened sites with Google Earth platform.*
- iii. *The committee viewed that the community based ecotourism activities undertaken by the project are providing alternative livelihoods to the poor communities residing in forest fringe villages. The Chief Secretary observed that these initiatives need to be encouraged at potential sites and advised the project to provide 5 more cottages to the Nature Camp at Chotkei, where developments have been highly encouraging.*

5. Approval of Annual Action Plan and Budget for 2013-14

The detailed Annual Action Plan and budget for 2013-14 was placed before the HPC. The Annual Action Plan and budget for 2013-14 was earlier concurred by the Governing body in 16th meeting held on 27th April 2013.

The Committee approved a budget of ₹144.94 Crore for the FY 2013-14, out of which ₹121.98 Crore will be the loan component to be reimbursed by Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

UTILISATION UPTO 2012-13 AND BUDGET OUTLAY FOR 2013-14	
(₹ in Million)	
COMPONENTS	BUDGET 2013-14
Preparatory Work	
Strengthening of Executing Body	34.55
Capacity Building of VSSs	71.69
Community / tribal development	339.13
Biodiversity Management	29.50
Forest Management under JFM Mode	272.23
Forest Management under Non-JFM Mode	145.30
Farm Forestry Development	70.00
Infrastructure Development	110.00
Forest Researches	5.00
Publicity and Communication	2.00
Monitoring and Evaluation	70.47
consulting services	30.00
Interest during construction	40.00
Total JICA Loan	1219.87
Govt share	229.60
Grand total	1449.47

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



(Shri Jugal Kishore Mohapatra, IAS)

Chief Secretary, Odisha

President OFSDS and Chairperson HPC

Annexure- A

LIST OF MEMBERS PRESENT

Sl. No	Name	Designation	Position
1.	Sri J.K. Mohapatra, IAS	Chief Secretary, Odisha & President, OFSDS	Chairperson
2.	Sri U.N. Behera, IAS	Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt., Finance Department	Member
3.	Dr. Taradatt, IAS	Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt., Revenue & Disaster Management Department	Member
4.	Sri P.N. Padhi, IFS	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha	Member
5.	Sri R.K. Sharma, IAS	Principal Secretary to Govt., Forest & Environment Department.	Member
6.	Sri J.D. Sharma, IFS	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, CWLW, Odisha	Member
7.	Dr. A.B. Ota, IAS	Director (S.T) Representing Comm-cum-Secretary to Govt., ST&SC Dev. Department	Member
8.	Sri Debranjana Ku. Singh, IAS	Comm-cum-Secretary to Govt., Panchayati Raj Department	Member
9.	Sri A.K. Panda	Special Secretary to Govt., Planning & Co-ordination Department	Member
10.	Sri Vinod Kumar, IFS	Project Director, OFSDP	Member Secretary
11.	Sri Rajiv Kumar, IFS	Addl. Project Director, OFSDP	Special Invitee
12.	Sri R. Raghu Prasad, IFS	Joint Project Director, OFSDP	Special Invitee