

No. Ft. (PF)-6/2018/HPC & Governing Body Meeting/Vol.1
Himachal Pradesh Forest Department

From:

Chief Project Director,
Project for Improvement of Himachal Pradesh Forest
Ecosystems Management & Livelihoods)-cum-Member
Secretary High Powered Committee

To:

1. The Chief Secretary (Chairman)
2. Addl. Chief Secretary (Health & Family Welfare)) (Member)
3. Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests) (Member)
4. Addl. Chief Secretary (Finance)) (Member)
5. Pr. Secretary (Agriculture)) (Member)
6. Pr. Secretary (Fisheries)) (Member)
7. Pr. Secretary (Ayurveda)) (Member)
8. Pr. Secretary (Training & FA)) (Member)
9. Pr. Secretary (Horticulture. Information Technology) (Member)
10. Secretary (RD & PR)) (Member)
11. Pr. CCF (HoFF)) (Member)
12. Pr. CCF (WL)) (Member)
13. Special Invitee from MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi) (Member)
14. Special Invitee from JICA) (Member)
15. Sh. Budh Ram Sharma, President, Dev Rishi Environment Protect Group,
Village & P.O. Jagatsukh, Tehsil Manali, District Kullu, H.P.) (Member)
16. Ms. Priteshwari Negi, Chairman, Zila Parishad, Village Chunglig, P.O. Duni,
Tehsil Kalpa, District Kinnaur, H.P.) (Member)

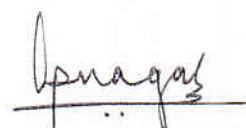
Dated Shimla, the 28 AUG 2018

Subject: Proceeding of the 1st Meeting of High Powered Committee (HPC) for JICA assisted Project for Improvement of Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystems Management & Livelihoods.

Sir,

Enclosed please find herewith, the proceeding of the 1st Meeting of High Powered Committee (HPC) for JICA assisted Project for Improvement of Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystems Management & Livelihoods held on 01.08.2018, at Shimla chaired by Chief Secretary to GoHP, for your information and further necessary action please.

Encl: As above


Chief Project Director (PIHPFEML)-cum-
Member Secretary (High Powered Committee)
O/o Pr. CCF (HoFF) Shimla-171001

Proceedings of the 1st Meeting of High Powered Committee (HPC) chaired by Chief Secretary to GoHP for JICA assisted Project for Improvement of Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystems Management & Livelihoods held on 1-08-2018 at HP Secretariat Shimla.

The 1st meeting of High Powered Committee (HPC) chaired by Chief Secretary to GoHP for JICA assisted Project for Improvement of Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystems Management & Livelihoods was held on 1-08-2018 at HP Secretariat Shimla. The list of officers who attended the meeting is attached as Annexure A. Chief Project Director-cum-Member Secretary, JICA Forestry Project (PIHPFEM&L) welcomed the Chairman and all the participants and thereafter with the permission of the chair, following agenda items were discussed:

- 1. Introduction of the members and the project** - The round of introduction of the participants was followed by a presentation on the Project made by the CPD JICA Forestry Project. He apprised the house about the project objectives, components, cost etc. Under other proposals information about establishment of Jadi Buti cell having 11 clusters, award for performers, use of drones for monitoring, briquetting of pine needles, hydroponics etc was also shared. Major milestones to be achieved in current year was also shared with members. Participating in the discussion thereafter the Chairman Sh Vineet Chawdhry, Chief Secretary to GoHP inquired about the exact activities to be carried out. CPD JICA Forestry Project informed that around 10900 ha of plantations (afforestation, enrichment etc) will be carried out. Around 460 microplans will be formulated following a consultative process with the communities at the ward level and will be implemented through Village Forest development societies/ BMC subcommittees in the project area in three batches. Selection process for the panchayats/wards for 1st batch will started by September/October 2018 and Nursery raising will be done by FD for plantations to be carried out subsequently. The Project would be implemented in six districts i.e Kinnaur, Shimla, Bilaspur, Mandi, Kullu and Lahaul & Spiti. Seven Forest Circles, 18 Forest divisions and 61 ranges have been included in the project area. Four components i.e Sustainable Forest Ecosystem Management, Biodiversity Conservation, Livelihood improvement support and Institutional Capacity strengthening will be the focus of the project.

ACS (Finance) Sh Anil Khachi inquired about the baseline studies/preparation of the project on which CPD informed about the JICA study team which was stationed in HP (Shimla) for about 7 -8 months in 2017 and who have carried out the detailed study and submitted their report to JICA before finalization of the loan agreement. ACS (Finance) wanted to know about the drivers for the vehicles

proposed at various levels in the Project. It was informed that only hired taxis are allowed.

The Chairman inquired about the difference/changes the project will make. ACS (Forests) Sh Tarun Kapoor while participating in the discussion apprised the house that the project is a purely forestry project with inclusion of livelihoods improvement component and the strengthening of institutional capabilities of the communities and the department so as to execute it successfully and sustain the benefits to environment and communities in future also. He said that the project would be a major source of funding like other sources such as CAMPA, CSS etc for the activities which otherwise also forms a part of the mandate of the department. PCCF (HOFF) Sh Ajay Kumar informed that the project intervention will lead to improvement/ increase in forest cover, efforts will be made that more of open forests are converted into moderately dense and moderately dense forests are converted into dense forest category. By increasing forest cover there could be more fund available under CSS/Finance commissions as now the fund release under them is linked to forest cover.

2. Responsibilities of HPC - CPD informed that HPC is the highest decision making body for the project constituted vide notification dated 09-07-2018. It is not a part of the Society for improvement of Forest Ecosystems Management & Livelihoods which has been registered under the Societies Registration Act 2006 on 09-07-2018 for implementing the project. The HPC will regularly oversee the performance of the project implementation and shall pursue the matters relating to policy, annual budget, coordination amongst departments, approval and review of operation plan, approving annual plans and budgets and according administrative and financial sanction amounting to 50 million INR and above. It was informed that one major objective of today's meeting was to make aware all members about their role i.e. to help in convergence wherever possible.
3. Operation Plan for the Project discussion and approval - The operation plan for the project was discussed and approved by the HPC. Expenditure projection for 2018-19 discussed and approved.
4. Smt Priteshwari Negi , Charman , Zila Parishad Kinnaur asked about the budget flow mechanism and whether local communities will have a say in that. CPD informed that the focus will be on Participatory Forest management through VFDS/ BMC subcommittees and the works will be carried out by them as per approved microplans. In other distant areas the works will be carried out in departmental mode also.

5. Sh Budh Ram Sharma, President Dev Rishi Environment Protection Group, Manali, District Kullu said that the Govt should ensure that the medicinal plants should not be extracted before maturity. He also requested to provide documents in Hindi also. The concerns were noted.
6. Representative of Secretary RD & PR informed that under NRLM also, Rural Livelihoods Programmes are being run, and they have the experience too, so the field functionaries such as BDOs be kept in touch with this project. Project Director JICA Forestry Project Shimla informed that under this project, DMU officer i.e DFOs will coordinate with District level coordination committees and FTU officers i.e Range officers will coordination with BDOs and other functionaries at block level.
7. Agriculture department representative informed that they also had JICA assisted project which is at the closing phase and their experience can be shared in the implementation of this project.
8. On the issue of invasive species eradication, it was clarified that only Lantana will be removed. The project would mainly focus on Lantana eradication in Mandi, Bilaspur districts where it is found growing profusely.

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

Annexure-A

List of Participants of 1st Meeting of the High Power Committee (HPC) for JICA assisted Project for Improvement of Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystems Management & Livelihoods, held on 1st August, 2018 at 03:00 P.M. in the Conference Room of Chief Secretary to GoHP.

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1	Sh. Vineet Chawdhry	Chief Secretary
2	Sh. Anil Khachi	Addl. Chief Secretary (Finance)
3	Sh. Tarun Kapoor	Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests)
4	Sh. Sanjay Gupta	Pr. Secretary (Ayurveda)
5	Sh. Rakesh Kanwar	Special Secretary (RD & PR)
6	Sh. Ajay Kumar	PCCF (Finance)
7	Sh. M.L. Dhiman	Director (Horticulture)
8	Sh. Suresh Sharma	SMS & Project cell
9	Sh. Satpal Metha	Director-cum-Warden (Fisheries)
10	Sh. Rajender Verma	Joint Director (Agriculture)
11	Sh. Ajeet Kumar	HP State PCB Shimla
12	Sh. Alok P Nagar	Chief Project Director JICA Forestry Project
13	Ms. Meera Sharma	Project Director JICA Kullu
14	Sh. Raman Sharma	Project Director Shimla JICA Forestry Project
15	Sh. Budh Ram Sharma	President Dev Rishi Environment Protect Group
16	Smt. Priteshwari Negi	Chairparson Zila Parishad Kullu