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(i)

**COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY
RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE ON
DEVELOPMENT (A) DEPARTMENTS,
2022-23**

CHAIRMAN

1. Shri Gobinda Chandra Basumatari MLA

MEMBERS

1. Shri Bolin Chetia MLA
2. Shri Krishnendu Paul MLA
3. Shri Rama Kanta Dewri MLA
4. Shri Jayanta Malla Baruah MLA
5. Shri Promod Borthakur MLA
6. Shri Biswajit Phukan MLA
7. Shri Jitu Goswami MLA
8. Shri Krishna Kamal Tanti MLA
9. Shri Hemanga Thakuria MLA
10. Shri Wazed Ali Choudhury MLA
11. Shri Sherman Ali Ahmed MLA
12. Shri Siddeque Ahmed MLA
13. Shri Diganta Barman MLA
14. Shri Misbahul Islam Laskar MLA
15. Shri Abdul Batin Khandakar MLA
16. Shri Prithiraj Rava MLA
17. Shri Ponakan Baruah MLA
18. Shri Mazibur Rahman MLA
19. Shri Nizanur Rahman MLA
20. Shri Zakir Hussain Laskar MLA
21. Md. Aminul Islam (junior) MLA
22. Shri Lawrence Islary MLA
23. Shri Durga Das Boro MLA
24. Shri Akhil Gogoi MLA

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Hemen Das, Principal Secretary
2. Shri Dulal Pegu, Secretary
3. Shri Rajib Bhattacharyya, Joint Secretary
4. Shri Binod Ch. Bhuyan, Deputy Secretary
5. Smti Deepali Pegu, OSD (Under Secretary)
6. Shri Nabajyoti Patowary, Under Secretary
7. Shri Digambar Barman, Committee Officer
8. Smti Menaka Kutum, Committee Officer
9. Smti Susmita Das, Committee Officer

(ii)

INTRODUCTION

1. I, the Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (A) Departments having been authorized by the Committee to present the **Twenty Fourth Report** on their behalf on the demands for **Grant No. 55** relating to **Forest Department** for the financial year 2022-23.
2. The Committee took evidence of the government representatives on **23rd March, 2022**.
3. The Committee wishes to place its thanks to the representatives of concerned Department who appeared before the committee and placed their considered views and notes. The Committee also like to thanks the Department for furnishing the replies on the points raised by the Committee.
4. The Reports was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on **26th March, 2022**.
5. The Committee also expresses its thanks to the Officers and staff of the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat, who devoted their time and energy in processing and compilation of the report within a very short span of time for their Secretarial assistance & co-operation.

Dispur :
The 26th March, 2022.

GOBINDA CHANDRA BASUMATARI
Chairman,
Departmentally Related Standing
Committee
on Development (A) Departments,
Assam Legislative Assembly.



CHAPTER – I
Grant No. 55
Forest Department

The total sum of Rs. 98007.27 lakhs are required for approval of the House during the Financial Year 2022-23.

The total allocation of fund under the Grant No.55 for administration of Forest Department during the financial year 2022-2023 is Rs. 98007.27 lakhs and presented before the house for approval. The total amount so allocated is prepared to spend in the Revenue & Capital expenditure.

The detailed Budget allocation under Grant No.55 of Forest Department as below:

	(Rupees in Lakhs)
Major Head of Accounts	Budget Estimates 2022-23
2406- Forestry and wildlife	94878.97
2415 – Agricultural Research and Education	1427.79
4406 – Capital Outlay on Forestry and Wildlife	1700.51
Grand Total:	Rs.98007.27

The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (A) Department of Assam Legislative Assembly examining the Grant No.55 as per the evidence from the Departmental representatives presents in the meeting and observes the Budget.

Report

Grant No. 55 : Forest Department

Forestry is a vital sector of the State and it is a very important component of social sector in terms of goods and services it delivers.

The forest & tree cover in Assam as per the latest assessment by Forest Survey of India (F.S.I.) is 36.09% (as per latest Report, 2021) of the geographical area both within and outside the notified forest areas. The concept of extension forestry initiated in the early eighties under State Plan has percolated down fairly in terms of extent of forest cover outside the notified forest areas.

The thrust areas identified by the Department are as below:-

- Conservation of areas having rich biodiversity.
- Arresting the trend of degradation of Forests and reverting the process by reforestation through various stake holders.
- Eviction measures in Forest land of Assam and erection of boundary pillars in vulnerable areas.
- Conservation and Management of Protected Area Network.
- Upgradation of Research and Development activities.
- Improvement in livelihood support system of forest dependent communities.

Mandate of the Department: -

a) Function, role and responsibilities of the Department :

The mandate of the Forest Department is to manage the Forest, Forest produces and Wildlife of the State of Assam. The relevant constitutional framework at the backdrop of management of forest resources are briefly enumerated as follows:

The Constitution of India:

Article 48 A one of the Directive Principles, which state that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forest and wildlife of the country.

Article 51 A deals with the fundamental duties of citizens, which include the citizen's duty to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture and to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.

Article 246 points towards the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, which enlists forest as one of the subjects in the Concurrent List on which both the Central and State Governments shall legislate upon.

The Assam Forest Policy, 2004 has been adopted in the State of Assam in the line of **National Forest Policy, 1988**.

b) Acts and Rules administered by the Department:

The Central Acts and Rules as well as the State Acts and Rules administered by the Department are listed as below:-

I. Central Acts and Rules:

- The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- The Cattle Trespass Act, 1971.
- The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003.
- The Wildlife (Protection) Rules, 2002.
- Wetlands (Conservation and Management (Rules, 2010).
- National Green Tribunal (Financial and Administrative Powers) Rules, 2011.
- Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

II. State Acts and Rules:

- The Assam Forest Regulation, 1891
- The Assam Forest (Removal and Storage of Forest Produce) Regulation Act, 2000
- Un-classed State Forest Rules.
- Rules to regulate the removal of orchids from the Un-classed state forest in the N.C. Hills.
- Rules to regulate grazing in the Un-classed State Forests.
- Rules to regulate the import of forest produce.
- Rules for establishment and control of Forests Villages.
- Rules for Protection of Forests from Fire.
- Rules for eviction from Reserved Forests.
- Rules to regulate the transport of forest produce by land and water.
- Rules for better control of rafts of logs and bamboos on the Barak, Kushiyara and Surma rivers in the Barak Valley.
- Rules to regulate the salvage, collection and disposal of drift and other timber.
- Assam Wood Based Industries Rules, 2000.
- Assam Revolving Fund Rules, 2000.
- Assam (Control of felling and removal of trees from non-forest land) Rules, 2002 as amended.
- Assam Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2004.
- Assam Sale of Forest Produce, Coupes and Mahal Rules, 1977 (as amended in 2000)
- Assam Joint (Peoples Participation) Forest Management Rules, 1998.
- The Wildlife (Protection) (Assam Amendment) Act, 2009.
- Tiger Conservation Foundation Rules, 2010.
- Assam Biodiversity Rules, 2010.
- Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rule, 2013.
- Rules for quarrying of stones for the collection of stones, gravel, shingle or sand from the Un-classed State Forests.

Activities of the Department:**Description of the main Plans/ Programmes/ Work implemented by the Department****a) Brief description of the schemes indicating the main objectives, components and beneficiaries :**

Forestry is a vital sector of the State and it is a very important component of social sector in terms of goods and services it delivers.

The forest and tree cover in Assam as per the latest assessment by Forest Survey of India (F.S.I.) is 36.09% (as per latest Report, 2021) of the geographical area both within and outside the notified forest areas. The forest cover is more than what the nation aspires to achieve as envisaged in the National Forest Policy, 1988. The concept of extension forestry initiated in the early eighties under State Plan has percolated down fairly in terms of extent of forest cover outside the notified forest areas.

The thrust areas identified by the Department are as below: -

- Conservation of areas having rich biodiversity.
- Arresting the trend of degradation of Forests and reverting the process by reforestation through various stake holders.
- Eviction measures in Forest land of Assam and erection of boundary pillars in vulnerable areas.
- Conservation and Management of Protected Area Network.
- Up gradation of Research and Development activities.
- Improvement in livelihood support system of forest dependent communities.

The above thrust areas have been the centre points behind the SOPD schemes which have been formulated and implemented during the period.

b) Implementation mechanism:

Most of the schemes of forest regeneration and conservation are implemented in a participatory framework involving Joint Forest Management Committees. Besides, continuous efforts are being made to involve line departments for better resource mobilization and implementation of the developmental schemes in forest areas considering increased inter-dependence of the forestry sector with other sectors of the economy.

c) Allocations, expenditure and target and achievements (Physical & Financial)

4. Plan Allocation & Expenditure of the Department for last 3 years :

Rs. in lakh

Year	Allocation	Expenditure	Remarks
2018-19	12631.28	2320.7508	
2019-20	52833.26	33887.49	
2020-21	43852.98	16394.19	From CAMPA amount of ₹16402.33 lakhs surrendered

5. New initiatives and innovative steps taken by the Department to improve its functioning by increasing the use of information technology and/ or through any other reform measures :

- a. Rapid Response Teams- Mobile Anti-depredation Squad (MADS) & Field Anti-depredation Squad (FADS) have been constituted at division level to tide-over the situation of increasing human-wildlife conflicts in the state.
- b. Toll Free No. 0361 2333253
(To address the Personal Grievances of General People)
- c. Man-Animal Conflict Toll Free No. 0361 2333253
(To gather information about the Man-Animal Conflict in different parts of Assam)
- d. A module based Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) named 'Aranya', using open source technology (mainly Quantum GIS) was deployed by C-DAC for Forest Department of BTAD. SDSS 'Aranya' facilitates the decision making in different domains of forestry. The main functionalities of this system include (i) Identification of plantation sites (ii) habitat suitability analysis for wildlife (iii) Carbon pool inventory (iv) land use pattern analysis and (v) Forest Crime analysis.
- e. Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) have been provided with GPS kits to empower them with Forest Mapping and effective management of forest resources.
- f. Assam is the first state in the country to constitute Tiger Conservation Foundations for Kaziranga, Nameri and Manas Tiger Reserves for better conservation and management of Tiger Reserve and also notified Tiger Conservation Foundation Rules for the state for making the foundations operational.
- g. The 1st AFFP Bn. and 2nd AFFP Bn. and SRDF are fully operational and deployed them for Forest & Wildlife protection duty. The Forest Officers at all levels have been granted power to use fire arms for the protection of forest and wildlife under the provision Sec.197 of CrPC vide the Govt. of Assam's Notification No. FRW.22/2009/5 dated 14/07/2010. Since, the poachers have started using more sophisticated arms and ammunitions, the Govt. of Assam has decided to procure matching sophisticated fire arms for use by the Forest Officers and Staff as well as Assam Forest Protection Force engaged in wildlife and forest protection duty.
- h. The forest officers and executive staff have been provided with powers to use arms along with immunity from prosecution in using fire arms on duty. To ensure it, the Govt. of Assam has notified that the provisions of sub-section (2) of Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (GPC), 1973 shall apply to all forest officers.

- i. To equip the frontline forest staff to face the emerging challenges in the forestry sector, up-gradation of infrastructure for training institutions in the state along with preparation of training material and revision of syllabus is being taken up under JICA assisted "Capacity Development for Forest Management and Training of Personnel" programme being implemented in the 2 forestry schools of the Department.
- j. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended to give more teeth to this legislation. As per this amendment, known as the Wildlife (Protection) (Assam Amendment) Act, every offence under this Act shall be cognizable and non-bailable within the meaning of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. Further, the offences under this Act shall be triable by the Session Court and in the relevant sections, penalties have been enhanced from three years imprisonment, seven years imprisonment and Rupees ten thousand fine to seven years, ten years and Rupees fifty thousand respectively.
- k. Relative ranks of subordinate forest officers have been upgraded to bring parity with police in terms of pay and other allowances. Also the anomaly regarding the Assistant Conservator of Forests as Class-I service as per rules getting class-II pay for the last so many years has been removed.

Human Resource Development

The main strength of the Forest Department is the frontline staff working in the remote forests. Hence the importance of training, both induction and in-service. Assam has two State Forestry Training Institutes, namely the Assam Forest School at Jalukbari and Assam Forest Guards School, Makum for training of the Foresters and Forest Guards respectively.

Details of courses conducted and number of trainees during 2020-21

	6-month Induction Course	3-month in-service course	6 days refresher course	Remarks
Assam Forest School, Jalukbari (Forester)	0	34	30	Could not be scheduled as planned due to Covid 19 pandemic
Assam Forest Guards, Makum (Forest Guard)	Nil	Nil	Nil	

Legislation:

a) *Details of new legislations enacted by the Department during the year.*

Nil.

b) *Brief details of setting up of any major Commissions/ Committees.*

Nil.

Any other matter which the Department would like to highlight in the report and which is not covered in any of the subject heads above :

In order to increase the forest cover, conserve biodiversity, improve the livelihood support systems for forest dependent communities and capacity building in the forest department, the following Externally Aided Projects are in various stages of implementation as mentioned below.

(I) Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) Phase-II

The "Assam Project on Forest and Bio-diversity Conservation" (APFBC) Phase-I, co-funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the State Government of Assam, covered the entire state of Assam in a phased manner. Activities under the APFBC, Phase-I were implemented by the Field Implementation Units comprising of 32 territorial divisions, 7 wildlife divisions and 13 social forestry divisions in the Forest Department of Assam. The Phase-I of the Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) ended successfully on 31st of May, 2019. Two separate agencies, the AFC-IDCG India and the OKD Institute, separately conducted independent evaluation of the Phase-I of the APFBC. Based on the said evaluations, it was mutually agreed by the Government of Assam & AFD to have a Phase-II of APFBC.

The project vision is "*to enable sustainable forest and biodiversity conservation and management in Assam through multi-scale integrative planning and involvement of forest dependent communities in target areas and giving fillip to their livelihood activities through sustainable use of forest and non-forest resources*".

The project budget amounts to a total of 62.5 M € (equivalent to INR 500 Cr.), comprising of 50 M € (INR 400 Cr.) loan component from the French Development Agency (AFD) and 12.5 M € (INR 100 Cr.) counterpart funding by the state Government of Assam. The project is planned to be implemented in the entire state of Assam from 2019-20 to 2023-24.

Project Components:

The components of the project are:

Component 1: **Conservation of Ecosystems** (Sustainable Forest Management) aimed at to carry out forest management activities in a sustainable way.

Component 2: Community Engagement (Adding Value and opening markets / opportunities for forests and biodiversity goods and ecosystem services) aimed at to add value to goods and services generated by communities through sustainable use of forest and non forest resources.

Component 3: Institutional Strengthening of Forest Department aimed at to enhance the capacity of the Assam Forest Department.

(II) Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority: The National Ad-hoc CAMPA set up in 2008 on the orders of Supreme Court and the Supreme court approved guidelines for utilizing CAMPA funds by State CAMPA constituted in the States. After that the MoEF & CC issued guidelines for establishment of CAMPA in States/ UTs in 2009. Accordingly Govt. of Assam established Assam State CAMPA in 2009 by constituting Governing Body, State Level Steering Committee and State Level Executive Committee.

Aims and Objectives of State CAMPA:

- (a) Conservation, protection, regeneration and management of existing natural forests.
- (b) Conservation, protection and management of wildlife and its habitat within and outside protected areas including the consolidation of the protected areas.
- (c) Compensatory afforestation.
- (d) Environmental services like:
 - (i) Provision of goods such as wood, non-timber forest products, fuel, fodder and water, and provision of services such as grazing, tourism, wildlife protection and life support.
 - (ii) Regulating services such as climate regulation, disease control, flood moderation, detoxification, carbon sequestration and health of soils, air and water regimes.
 - (iii) Non-material benefits obtained from ecosystems, spiritual, recreational, aesthetic, inspirational, educational and symbolic.
 - (iv) Supporting other such services necessary for the production of ecosystem services, biodiversity, nutrient cycling and primary production.
- (e) Research, training and capacity building.

The various activities taken under State CAMPA for the year 2020-21 are as follows:

(1) **Plantations and Other Important Activities**

Type of Plantation	Target	Achievement	Remarks
Site Specific Plantation	196.10 Ha	26.06 Ha	Backlog of SSP 2016-17: 3.22 ha. 2019-20: 19 ha.
Artificial Regeneration	2145.00 Ha	451.00 Ha	
Aided Natural Regeneration	730.00 Ha	250.00 Ha	
Sal Coppice Management	235 Ha	135 Ha	
Biodiversity Park	24 Nos.	24 Nos.	
Habitat management in Protected Areas	498 Ha	498 Ha	
Establishment of Animal Rescue center and Veterinary facility for wild animals	3 Nos.	1 No.	
Infrastructure Development	34 Nos.	14 Nos.	

Table -II A
Statement Showing the Staff Position

SI No.	Category	Sanctioned Strength	Total Staff in Position	Remarks
1	Grade I	319	164	
2	Grade II	429	206	
3	Grade III	9577	6600	
4	Grade IV	2206	663	
	Total	12531	7560	

Table II-B

Sl. No.	Name of the Statutory Board/Corporation/Board/Other Agencies fully funded by the Government	Sanctioned Strength	Staff in Position	Remarks
1	Assam State Biodiversity Board	3	3	Chief Secretary, Assam is the Chairman of the Board, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (B&CC) is the member Secretary. It consists of five Ex-officio members drawn from related Departments of Govt. of Assam and five technical members who are experts in various aspects of Biodiversity Management.

Assam Forest department
Action Taken Report on the Recommendations made by
The DRSC in its Twenty Third Report (Grant No.55) of 2021-22

1. The Committee observes with concern that utilization of fund, specially under CAMPA, is very poor for the last three successive years and hence recommends that the department should put appropriate machinery in place including adequate man power and proper planning to gear-up utilization of fund in time and increase the forest coverage in the state for maintenance of the ecological balance, material prosperity and overall socio-economic development of the state.

Action taken:

Brief overview of CAMPA guidelines for fund release:

- A. As part of the prescribed procedure, the Assam State CAMPA requests the Wing Heads under the Forest Department to submit division wise proposals for preparation of APO.
- B. Once proposals are received from the Wing Heads, Annual Plan of Operation (APO) is drafted basing on the items/activities proposed by respective wing heads as per CAMPA norms
- C. APO is placed before the State Level Executive Committee chaired by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forests Force, Assam which scrutinizes the draft APO.
- D. After the scrutiny and making necessary changes in the APO, if required, it is then placed before State Level Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam.
- E. On receiving approval from the Steering Committee, it is submitted to the National CAMPA headed by the Director-General & Spl. Secretary, Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India.
- F. In the National CAMPA, the APO proposal is placed before National CAMPA Executive Committee for necessary approvals.
- G. As per the guidelines of CAMPA, fund not exceeding 20% of the total fund available with Assam State Compensatory Afforestation Fund (SCAF), will be approved for APO of any year.
- H. On approval of the APO by National CAMPA the Govt. of India issues the sanction letter.

- I. After receipt of the sanction letter, the Financial Sanction proposal is submitted to the Govt. of Assam from the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Assam.
- J. After the concurrence of the Financial Sanction, the Fixation of Ceiling (FoC) proposal is submitted to the Govt of Assam for release of the fund.
- K. After issue of the FoC, the fund is released and transferred to the State CAMPA account.

Limitations:

- A. As detailed above, once the APO is drafted and submitted by the State CAMPA, it is passed through the State Level Executive Committee, the State Level Steering Committee and the National CAMPA.
- B. As brought out above, APO cannot be proposed for an amount beyond 20% of the total fund available with Assam State Compensatory Afforestation Fund (SCAF). So, there is a cap on proposed budget while drafting APO for a particular year under CAMPA.
- C. The National CAMPA is the final authority to approve APO and issue Sanction.
- D. All the activities for creation of the plantation and nurseries under CAMPA are seasonal in nature. The activities have to be carried out strictly according to the plantation/nursery calendar. Further, the mandatory process of sanctions/approvals and fund release, which is beyond the control of the Forest department, generally takes time affecting the timely execution of Nursery /Plantation works and hence the activities spill over to the next season. However, funds released under CAMPA by the Govt. of India are not on financial year basis and therefore, the released funds are non-lapsable. Thus, completion of plantation works in a particular financial year is not applicable in case of the funds received under CAMPA. But, the plantation works which could not be carried out in the year in which fund was received can be done in the next year during the planting season to achieve the overall target.
- E. However, the National CAMPA, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India approved the APO of 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 in the middle of the year which led to non-completion of works in the same year.

F. Details of month wise APO approved and fund received are given below:

Year	APO submitted	APO Approved (inRs.)	Month of Fund Receipt
2018-19	Rs. 45.21 Crore & Rs.0.66 Crore against balance APO of 2017-18 dt.08.08.2018	45.85 Crore	Fund to the tune of Rs. 45.85 Crores was received in the month of <u>August 2018</u>
2019-20	Rs.55.88 Crore dated 05.09.2019	55.88 Crore	The amount utilized against the APO of 2019-20 was made from the unspent non-lapsable balance of previous years as per instruction of Govt. of India, MoEF& CC letter No. 4-64-2019-NA, dated 01-10-2019.
2020-21	Rs.88.34 Crore dated 10.04.2020	88.34 Crore	Fund to the tune of Rs. 88.34 Crore out of total budgetary allocation of Rs.25236.33 lakhs was released in <u>September 2020</u> . Remaining amount of Rs.16402.33 lakhs was surrendered to the Govt during 2020-21 itself.

G. Plantation and nurseries have been created and maintained under CAMPA departmentally. But as per the instructions of the Finance Department, Govt. of Assam, in the year 2020-21 all such works had to be executed through tender system only. However, most of the Forest Divisions reported that they have not received sufficient number of tenders against the creation and maintenance of plantation and nurseries even after several attempts which has led to the delay in execution of works.

As brought out above, the remarks of the Committee that 'utilization of fund, specially under CAMPA, is very poor for the last three successive years' is not directly attributable to the forest department, but is owing to the time taken to comply with the existing procedures as mandated by National CAMPA and State Government. Having said that, the forest department assures the Committee that all steps will be taken in right earnest to implement the directions of the Committee.

2. The Committee further recommends that the plantation and nurseries under CAMPA be created and managed through JFMCs.

Action taken:

All the plantations and such other works under State CAMPA are done through tender system as per the existing instructions of Finance Department, Govt. of Assam.

If the plantations and nurseries under CAMPA are to be created and managed through JFMCs, the Committee may kindly recommend the same to the Govt of Assam for issuing necessary instructions to the Forest department.

3. The Committee further observes that the advance work, creation (actual planting), maintenance (three weeding, climber cuttings, burning) etc which are so vital for success of any plantation, are not done in time.

The committee strongly recommends that each work component for any plantation and nursery should be done in time and whatever amendments in the existing procedure, if any, such as waiving of ceiling, present system of bidding etc as necessary shall be adopted.

Action taken:

All the activities for creation of the plantation and nurseries under CAMPA are seasonal in nature. The activities have to be carried out strictly according to the plantation/nursery calendar.

Further, the mandatory process of sanctions/approvals and fund release, which is beyond the control of the Forest department, generally takes time affecting the timely execution of Nursery /Plantation works and hence the activities spill over to the next season. As detailed under reply to Observation No.1, fund was released in August during 2018-19 and September during 2020-21. As per the plantation calendar, the creation of plantation shall be completed during the monsoon that is not later than July. This is one of the factors contributing to the non-completion of work on time.

Second reason is that as per the instructions of the Finance Department, Govt. of Assam, from the year 2020-21 onwards all plantation and nursery works had to be executed through tender system only. However, most of the Forest Divisions reported

that they have not received sufficient number of tenders against the creation and maintenance of plantation and nurseries even after several attempts which has led to the delay in execution of works.

However, on 17/11/2021 Finance Department has conveyed their no objection to the proposal of permission for carrying out Plantation Works departmentally under CAMPA subject to the condition that the Department shall issue SOP/Guidelines for such works in accordance with the existing financial rules, procedures, formalities and norms.

However, funds released under CAMPA by the Govt. of India are not on financial year basis and therefore, the released funds are non-lapsable. Thus, completion of plantation works in a particular financial year is not applicable in case of the funds received under CAMPA. But the plantation works which could not be carried out in the year in which fund was received, were done in the next year during the planting season to achieve the overall target.

4. The Committee strongly recommends active involvement of the local MLAs in any activity under the department and the department shall evolve and implement appropriate mechanism for this.

Action taken: Instructions have already been issued to the officers concerned to take necessary action accordingly and the same is being implemented at field level.

5. The Committee recommends that the local people and the local bidders should be given preference in any forestry activity.

Action taken:

All the works are done under State CAMPA through tender system as per the instructions of the Finance Department, Govt. of Assam where each tenderer/bidder, including local people, gets an equal opportunity to participate in the tender as per the Assam Public Procurement Rules, CVC guidelines etc.

Sealed tenders are received, opened and evaluated on the basis of the terms and conditions mentioned in the NIT/RFQ. The work is executed after settlement of the tenders as per the laid down procedures.

There is no provision in the existing rules and regulations that special preference be given to the tenderers/bidders on the basis of nativity or their place of domicile.

6. The Committee observes that allotment of a 15 ha plot of plantation at Baghbar hill under CAMPA is grossly erroneous as a local bidder with experience in plantation activities and evaluated as L 1 has been deprived and a bidder from outside without any experience in plantation activities has been preferred. The committee, therefore, recommends for an exhaustive enquiry into the allotment procedure of the said work, rescind the work order issued, take immediate steps for re-allotment of the said work and fix responsibility for such gross anomalies.

Action taken:

As per accounting procedure of State CAMPA, financial power of sanctioning estimates is delegated, as furnished below:

DFO	upto Rs. 10 lakhs
CF	upto Rs. 50 lakhs
Addl. PCCF &CCF	upto Rs.100 lakhs
PCCF &HoFF	Full power

Accordingly, the tender settlement for 15 ha CAMPA plantation under Barpeta SF Division at Baghbar hill has been done at the level of Conservator of Forest, Lower Assam Social Forestry Circle (LASFC).

The tender has been settled with Sri Abu Bakkar Siddique, the bidder who had quoted lowest bid as per rules and regulations. The Contractor had commenced works w.e.f. June 2021.

However, after receipt of a complaint from Hon'ble MLA, Baghbar LAC, as per the instruction of PCCF & HoFF, Assam State CAMPA issued letter to Addl. PCCF, Social Forestry Wing to cause inquiry into the matter and suggest appropriate action. In this regard, the Addl. PCCF, SF caused inquiry into the matter and ultimately opined that the cancellation of Tender at this stage may have legal repercussions.

CEO CAMPA then directed that the said settlement of tender by CF, LASFC with Sri Abu Bakkar Siddique may not be revoked. Copy of the CEO, CAMPA Ref No. FG.27/CAMPA/TENDER/Pt-1 dated 30.06.2021

7. In view of remoteness and vastness of the area under NK Division, Rangia, the committee recommends that the SF Division, Barpeta be converted into a Territorial Division with jurisdiction over Barpeta District.

Action taken:

Recommendation of the Committee is under examination and field officers were directed to submit their view/comments/feedback on this issue. Proper decision will be taken once the feedback from field is received.

8. In view of a huge number of plantations proposed in Baghbar LAC under the Project, namely, "Rejuvenation/management of Brahmaputra River system through forestry interventions" and approved by the Union Ministry (NAEB), the SF Beat at Baghbar shall be upgraded to a Range and two SF Beats at Baghmara Char and Moinbari/Chatala shall be created.

Action taken –

- i. The matter has been examined by the Addl. PCCF SF and he opined that Baghbar SF Beat is already an independent accounts beat. Independent Account Beats have more functional autonomy vis-à-vis regular Beats. Since the plantations are presently being executed through contractors and services of the officers posted in the said Beat are not required in actual execution of the works but they only perform duties supervisory in nature. Hence, Addl. PCCF SF concluded that the present system of Beat is sufficient to supervise the said plantation works.
- ii. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry, Assam vide his letter No. SFD.34/CAMPA/Misc dated 30.09.2021 has reported that the river has eroded the Baghmara Char plantation site (by 20-30% approx) and Sukharjar Char (by 50% approx). Further, people of nearby 3 No. Bhaghmara Char and Sukharjar Char have raised objection to the taking up of plantation activity in those areas. Consequently, it is neither

feasible nor advisable to take up plantation activities on both the sites. Therefore, creation of SF beats at these two sites may not be practical.

9. The Committee further recommends that plantations shall be created under CAMPA along both sides of the newly constructed roads under PWD, especially under PMGSY.
10. The committee recommends that the department shall endeavour to create on nursery in each of the revenue villages and major educational institutions under CAMPA.

Action taken 9 & 10:

The recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee will be deliberated in the State Level Executive and Steering Committees and a suitable decision will be taken.

11. The Committee recommends the Department to review the expenditure for 2019-20 and asked the Department to submit a complete up-to-date Budget utilization and Financial Sanction/Fund release status to the Committee in a short time. The Committee deliberated upon the financial performance of the Forest department vis-a-vis budgetary allocations during 2019-20 and 2020-21 and suggested that there is a scope for better utilization of budgetary allocations and department should improve its performance in the days to come.

Action taken:

Details of Budgetary allocations during the year 2019-20 and 2020-21 are enclosed as ANNEXURE-III&IV. Efforts are being made to effectively utilize the allotted budget in a time bound manner.

12. The Committee recommends the Department to formulate a draft Policy and place before the House a comprehensive Rule for notification and management of animal corridors in the State.

Action taken:

Report of the Corridor delineation committee constituted vide Government of Assam Notification no. FRW.10/2020/Pt-1/5 dated 08/10/2021 with 10 members under the joint patronage of Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Assam, for the purpose is awaited.

13. The Committee recommends that the Department should allocate adequate funds for procurement of land for the corridors in its annual budget; and measure should be taken for habitat improvement, plantation of food trees and water conservation

Action taken:

Proposal for notification of 12 corridors has already been submitted to the Government for suitable policy decision. Fund requirement and source of fund will be finalized only after announcement of policy by the State Government.

14. The Committee recommends that the Department should expedite bringing an EAP for the Human-Animal Conflict Management so that a long term and comprehensive solution can be provided to mitigate the sufferings of the people in the fringes of the forests, and their crop and other property can be safeguarded. The Committee also recommends that the Department should come up with novel scheme for crop damage compensation; and all compensation should be provided within 48-72 hours to the affected persons.

Action taken:

Some of the steps taken by the Government of Assam and Forest department to mitigate Human-Animal Conflict are furnished below:

- i. Landscape level man-animal conflict study is an activity under French Development Agency assisted project, APFBC Phase-II, which will offer more solutions for successful Human-Animal Conflict management.

- ii. Delay in payment of ex-gratia amount and property damage compensation amount in the past had a very adverse impact on Human-Animal Conflict management.
- iii. Quickest distribution of ex-gratia amount and property damage compensation amount to the victims, inter alia, was recognized by the present Government as key to successful Human-Animal Conflict management.
- iv. The DFP rule was amended in this direction, vide notification No FEB.81/2021/1 (U/O) dated 07/07/2021, whereby, PCCF & HoFF, Assam is vested with the power to grant Financial Sanction for quick payment of ex-gratia amount and property damage compensation amount to the victims.
- v. As a result of this reform, an amount of Rs. 393.85 lakhs allocated under Vote on Account Budget during 2021-22 was released and disbursed to the families of victims within a very short span of 15 days. And an additional amount of Rs. 315.08 lakhs allocated under regular Budget during 2021-22 has already been released. Thus, total budgetary allocation of Rs. 708.98 Lakhs was fully utilized within a very short period.
- vi. Crop damage compensation has also been proposed on pilot basis under P.M. Fasal Bima Yojna.

All necessary steps, including formulation of new policies, will be taken by the Forest department to ensure that the compensation is provided within 48-72 hours to the affected persons.

15. The Committee recommends to form a coordination committee under umbrella of T&D Department with Water resources Department, Revenue Department, P&RD Department & PWD for erosion control of the entire Kaziranga and Burachapori Brahmaputra river bank side, and come up with a scientific plan.

Action taken:

A Coordination Committee, for erosion control of the entire Kaziranga & Burachapori Brahmaputra River Bank side, has been notified by Government of Assam vide Notification No. FRP.10/2019/31 dated 29/07/2021. (Copy at ANNEXURE-VI)

16. The Committee observed that the elevated corridor on the south bank of Kaziranga from Jakhalabanda to Panbari is a very novel idea, so the Department should expedite submission of DPR.

Action taken:

The forest department is working on this proposal on fast-track basis and DPR in this regard has already been approved by Govt. of Assam and was forwarded to Govt. of India for approval. A public hearing on the project has already been held at Kuthori and Kohora on 05.09.2021.

17. The Committee recommends for evicting certain habitations in the forests such as Laika-Dadhia in Dibru-Saikhowa, Sonai-Rupai and other reserved forests and in this regard the Department should coordinate with the Revenue Department, and try to find alternate land so that some of the populations can be moved out, and the vacated areas to be planted.

Action taken:

- i. As informed by PCCF (WL), in case of SonaiRupai, Tender for Survey of the area has been called by Deputy Commissioner, Sonitpur as per directions of the Hon'ble Court.
- ii. The status of relocation of forest villages from Laika and Dadhia is annexed as ANNEXURE - VII.

18. The Committee suggested that all highlands in wildlife areas should be constructed above High Flood Level (HFL).

Action taken:

Height of all new 33 high lands constructed in Kaziranga National Park during 2016-17; road cum high land spanning 19.5 KM constructed in 2019-20 and Road cum high land spanning 9 KM constructed on 2020-21 are constructed above 1998 high flood level.

Similarly, three high lands under Burachapori WLS under Nagaon Wildlife Division and three high lands along with 1 KM road cum high land in Laokhowa WLS were constructed above high flood level.

19. The Committee recommends the Department to bring out new mineral concession areas especially in the sand/silt and provide construction materials at reasonable rates to the people.

Action taken:

At present out of total number of 312 MCAs (including Stone & Sand), 128 MCAs are under operation and 140 MCAs are under various stages of settlement process. 44 MCAs are involved in litigation and hence could not be processed for settlement till litigation is disposed of. Efforts are underway to bring 140 MCAs, which are under various stages of settlement process, into operation at the earliest.

Regarding Ordinary Clay, the subject has been transferred to Mines & Minerals Department from Forest Department vide Govt. notification No.PEM/8/84/pt-III/14 dtd. 03.08.2021

20. The Committee observed that department has kept pending the work of timber auction. So, the committee recommends starting the auction immediately. The Committee has recommended regular monitoring of the disposal of timber lots lying in the timber depots across the State and any delay in this regard would result in deterioration of the quality of timber due to its perishable nature and subsequent loss of revenue. Forest department should ensure that immediate steps are taken to dispose of the said timber lots to fetch handsome revenue to the state exchequer.

Action taken:

All the lots are being disposed of expeditiously as per the procedure. E-auction of timber lying un-disposed in the divisions is under process through www.assamforestonline.in. All Territorial Divisions are working in a time bound manner to dispose of the timber by November, 2021. The matter is being pursued for early disposal.

21. The committee recommends to increase its sources of revenue by increasing the number of mines, auctioning of timber, minor forest produce, orchids, medicinal plants, harvesting of plantation, thinning etc. The committee also recommended that all the revenue earning sources should be brought, at the earliest, on the online platform.

Action taken:

- All possible steps are regularly being taken for increasing collection of Revenue which is being collected online through Online Revenue Management System & E-GRAS. The percentage of online collection of Revenue has increased from 61% during 2019-20 to 80% during 2020-21. Endeavour is to achieve 100% revenue collection through online mode at the earliest.
- E-auction for Minor Mineral Contract Areas in all the division is going on with a view to augment Revenue. E-auction of timber has been initiated to avoid loss of Govt. Revenue due to deterioration of timber.
- As per the recent Assam Minor Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2021 notified by Government of Assam vide its Notification no. PEM.130/2021/40 dated 07/10/2021, Royalties for the Minor Minerals to be used by State/Central Government departments or their agencies, Urban Local Bodies shall be deducted at sink by the Govt treasuries as per the rates prescribed in Third Schedule of the Rules.
This is a step towards plugging leakage in revenue due to evasion of royalty by miner mineral users. This amendment is expected to increase the realization of revenue to the state exchequer to a significant extent.
- Harvesting of trees and thinning operation will be carried out as per the prescription of the approved Working Plans.
- Proposal for improving the Eco-tourism potential of Dehing-Patkai National Park is submitted under SOPD Scheme Development of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. More such activities will be explored.
- The departmental sources of Revenue include Disposal of timber and other Forest produce Non-Timber Forest Produce receipt from Environment Forestry: Stone Boulder/Gravel/ Sand/Silt/Earth etc. Levy of Forest Produce, Realization of fines against forest offence, renewal fee of wood based industries, Stone crusher machine, timber depots, C.O.(Patta Land), Entry fee for Social Forestry Parks & Seedlings, entry fee & other charges from tourist

visiting National Parks/ Wildlife Sanctuaries/ Parking fees against different National Park and State Zoo/ Wildlife offence.

- Statistics of revenue collection in the last three years are:

Revenue Collection in last 3 Years (Rs. in crores)	
Year	Total Revenue collection amount
2018-19	364.27
2019-20	416.06
2020-21	352.77 (Despite COVID pandemic)

22. The Committee recommends that the DeeporBeel should be cleaned regularly as a whole and tourism facilities/infrastructure should be improved. The Department should provide adequate budgetary provision for that and for plying boats for Tourists.

Action taken:

Clearing of water hyacinth in 4.1 Sq.KM of DeeporBeel Wildlife Sanctuary areas is being carried out regularly. Further, the Chief Executive Officer, Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority was accorded permission by PCCF (WL) and CWLW for the cleaning and removal of water hyacinth/hydrophytes from DeeporBeel Wildlife Sanctuary vide office order no. 112 dt.06.08.2020.

DFO, Guwahati Wildlife Division requested the Chairman, Pollution Control Board, Assam, vide letter No.B/GWL/Deepor Beel WLS/1846 dtd.04.08.2020 for analysis of the quality of water in DeeporBeel.

23. The Committee recommends that the department should fill all its frontline vacancies at the earliest. The vacancies in the two battalions of the Assam Forest Protection Force should also be filled up. The Committee recommends that immediate steps shall be taken to till-up the existing vacancies in a transparent and fair manner

Action taken:

As recommended by the Committee, the proposal for filling up of the vacant posts of frontline staff has already been submitted to the Government vide this office letter

No. FE.22/Vacancy/2018-19, dated 16.8.2021.

Previously, an MoU was made on 07/01/2021 with Gauhati University for conducting recruitment of 1081 number of Grade -IV staff as per the decision of the Government. Financial sanction was also granted during 2020-21 itself for payment of 50% of recruitment expenses to the University. But fund release could not happen due to non-release by the Finance dept.

Subsequently, the Registrar, Gauhati University has issued a letter No. GU/Regr (SF)/2021/161/(II) dtd. 27.09.2021, wherein it is mentioned that, all activities in connection with all other external examinations/ recruitment tests are stopped with immediate effect until further decision.

Government has been approached for directions and need to conduct recruitment at various levels urgently vide this office letter no.FE.22/Recruitment Cell/2018/Pt dated 30/10/2021.

24. The Committee recommends that the Department should come up with a proposal to the Government for creation of a Third Battalion for protection of the border areas such as Geleki, Dissoi, Dissoi valley, Tiru hills, Nameri National Park etc. patrolling and forest activities in the border areas must be intensified.

Action taken: Major budget announcement to this effect was made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 16.07.2021 during presentation of budget for the year 2021-22. Accordingly, proposal for creation of a third Battalion for Assam Forest Protection Force has already be prepared and submitted to Govt. vide this office letter No. FE.22/3rd AFPP Bn./2021-22 dated. 03.09.2021.

25. The Committee recommends for construction of Guest House at Bogamati, Baska.

Action taken:

The Divisional Forests Officer, Dhansiri Division, Udalguri has informed that a plan and estimate of ₹2.00 Crores for construction of RCC (G+2) Forest Guest House having capacity for 44 guests under Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary of Dhansiri Division is already submitted to the Council Head of the Department, BTC, Kokrahar for

necessary approval, vide letter. No. A/DDU/Plan & Estimate/1034-35 dated 11/10/2021.

26. The Committee recommends the Department to construct/improve quarters for the employees/officers of the Forest Department with proper electricity and water Supply etc throughout the State.

Action taken

Construction and improvement of quarter for staffs and officers are regularly taken up under the project CAMPA, APFBC and SoPD Schemes subject to budget provisions and release of fund. This year budget allocation under various schemes (Building, Amenities to Staff & Labour) is shown below:

Name of the Scheme	Proposed Budget Allocation for 2021-22 (Rs in Lakhs)	Actual Budget (Rs in Lakhs)
SOPD		
1. Amenities to Staff and Labour	326.85	160.00
2. Building	533.91	120.00
3. Development of National Park & WL Sanctuary	5148.692	800.00
EAP		
1. APFBC Phase-II for Building Component	-	632.00
CAMPA for Building Component	-	851.35000

27. The Committee recommends the Department to work in close co-ordination with Water Resource Department to protect Orang National Park from erosion from the Dhansiri river bridge till the town of Dalmiri in the village Rangagara Pather in consultation with the Local MLA of Dalgaon.

Action taken:

The Executive Engineer, Mangaldoi Water Resource Division has submitted SDRF proposal for the year 2021-22 to the Deputy Commissioner Darrang on 29.07.2021.

- Protection measures for restoration of damages at Kiringbori area by river Nonoi.
- Protection measures to protect the villages Ronga Gora, Thalthali and its adjoining areas from the avulsion of river Dhansiri.

28. The Committee recommends the Department to conduct a research-based study regarding the impact of Mega dams constructed by the nearby countries like Nepal, China, Bhutan etc. in the lower Assam area and request the Department to submit the reports to Committee at the earliest.

Action taken:

This matter is beyond the jurisdiction of the Forest Department and hence no comments are being offered.

29. The Committee recommends the Department for plantations of trees like Banana, Jack-fruit etc. in the Forest to confine the elephants in the forest so that the conflict between man elephant can be minimized.

Action taken:

Elephant fodder trees are planted in forest areas for habitat enrichment on a regular basis.

Elephants, by nature, move out of the forests as they are long ranging animals and also due to habitat shrinkage and fragmentation.

However, the recommendation of the Committee was circulated to all concerned for aggressive plantation of trees suitable for fodder as per the approved norms.

30. The Committee recommends the Department for uniform rehabilitation/compensation package for those who are evicted from the Forest Land.

Action taken:

The rehabilitation/compensation packages for those who are evicted from the land are adopted as per the policy and guidelines notified by the State Government from time to time.

31. The Committee recommends the Department that promotion of the frontline staff of the department like Forest Guard etc., it shall be streamlined and the department shall provide minimum three promotions to them during their service life.

Action taken:

The promotion of the frontline staff like Forest Guard etc. is done as per service rule as well as availability of vacancies in the higher cadre from time to time.

Further, a restructuring proposal in respect of promotion of frontline posts, i.e. Deputy Ranger and Forester-II has been submitted to the Government vide this office letter FE.20/RoP/2010/ptdt. 30th Sept, 2021 which is under consideration at Govt. level. This will facilitate further promotion avenues for the frontline staff.

PRESENT STATUS UNDER THE SOPD, EAP & CS Schemes DURING 2019-20

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Head of Accounts	Total Allocation	F.S	FOC Used
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Forest Energy (General)	2406-01-102-0297-000-17-99	350.00000	349.99410	39.39491
2	Restoration of Degraded Forests	2406-01-103-1259-000-17-99	700.00000	0.00000	0.00000
3	Forest Fire Plan	2406-01-800-0796-000-17-99	120.00000	0.00000	0.00000
4	Forestry Camps (Component Plan)	2406-01-800-0789-000-17-99	250.00000	0.00000	0.00000
5	Forest Guard Board (Salary)	2406-01-800-0708-988-31-99	19.38000	19.38000	19.38000
6	Forest Guard Board (Post Salary)	2406-01-800-0708-988-32-99	252.90000	52.90000	52.90000
7	Special Police Protection Force	2406-02-111-3771-000-01-99	233.97000	6.00000	233.97000
8	Revised Forests Historical Plantation of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants	2406-01-102-1245-500-18-99	200.00000	184.50000	184.50000
9	Grants to Forest Orphaned	2406-01-305-1254-000-17-99	100.00000	0.00000	0.00000
10	Robberia Min. Expenses Control	2406-01-800-0708-000-24-99	104.50000	298.04597	40.01651
11	Assam Forest School (Honors of Staff)	2415-06-277-1310-000-04-02	40.00000	2.67659	2.67659
		2415-06-277-1310-000-28-03	260.00000	41.20931	41.20931
12	Forest Research	2415-06-004-1305-000-20-99	150.00000	136.81006	136.81006
13	Forest Publish	2406-01-800-0800-710-26-99	100.00000	100.00000	74.97480
14	CAMPA (SOPD)	2406-04-003-2533-000-26-99	5741.28000	0.00000	0.00000
15	Development of Forest Villages	2406-01-800-0800-000-25-99	160.00000	55.13000	6.30864
16	Amenities to Staff and Labour	2406-01-101-1240-000-21-99	200.00000	12.81763	7.19365
17	Development of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries	2406-02-111-1280-000-26-99	200.00000	122.77597	90.14382
18	Development of Other Wildlife Areas	2406-02-110-1268-000-26-99	130.00000	130.00000	84.22843
19	Workshop Plan Organization	2406-01-003-1229-000-26-99	190.00000	0.00000	0.00000
20	Forest Protection Force	2406-01-101-1258-000-13-99	190.00000	34.99577	49.99577
21	Modernization of Assam State Zoo	2406-02-111-1277-000-15-99	200.00000	319.30812	489.05920
22	Rehabilitation of Debris & Landslide under Bura Sarapan National Park (NL)	2406-02-111-1280-103-17-99	0.01000	0.00000	0.00000
23	Communication for General Area Road & Bridges	2406-01-070-1216-107-19-99	160.00000	81.11640	11.88000
24	Buildings for General Area	2406-01-070-0121-000-19-99	200.00000	59.36680	21.21649
25	Dr. Forest Building	2406-01-070-0121-814-13-99	0.01000	0.00000	0.00000
26	Assam Climate Change Mitigation Society	2406-01-800-0708-989-26-99	50.00000	50.00000	50.00000
27	Timber Treatment Steaming Plant	2406-01-800-0800-700-26-99	150.00000	0.00000	0.00000
28	Forest School Rejuvenation	2415-06-004-1310- Assam Forest School-491 Forest School K. Diphong-26-99	200.00000	0.00000	0.00000
29	Information Centre Cum Museum at Marga K. Diphong	2406-01-070-0121-101-18-99	1000.00000	1000.00000	1000.00000
30	Road Side Plantation of National Highways	2406-01-105-2547-Road Side plantation of NH-000-17-99.(New 57% created)	200.00000	0.00000	0.00000
31	Assam State Wetland Authority	2406-02-111-1280-000-26-99	12.00000	0.00000	0.00000
	Deepor Beel Conservation & Development Society		25.00000	0.00000	0.00000
32	Development of Modern Technology & Communication System for Forestry & Wildlife Conservation & Management	2406-01-003-1229-000-26-99	100.00000	97.37847	97.37847

	Name of the Scheme	Head of Account	Total Allocation	FS	FDC Fund
	2	3	4	5	6
33	Air & Water Pollution Control Board	2406-01-300-000-2327-33-99	1900.00000	0.00000	0.00000
			2.00000	0.00000	0.00000
	Flood Damage Restoration	2406-01-300-070-000-17-99	1000.00000	0.00000	0.00000
	(A) Total of SOPD		16103.55000	2450.40500	2772.19000
34	EAP				
35	EAP- Action Project on Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Society (APFBC)	2406-01-300-070-000-26-99	4325.15000	0.00000	0.00000
36	EAP- Capacity Building for Forest Management & Training of Personnel (PIC)	2406-01-300-070-000-26-99	15.00000	0.00000	0.00000
	(B) Total of EAP		4340.15000	0.00000	0.00000
C	CS				
37	National Afforestation Programme	2406-01-300-400-000-26-99	152.00000	0.00000	0.00000
38	Forest Fire Prevention & Management	2406-01-300-124-000-26-99	330.00000	9.52000	0.00000
39	National River Conservation	2406-02-300-480-000-26-99	52.00000	0.00000	0.00000
40	Project Elephant	2406-02-111-283-000-26-99	330.00000	171.92103	171.92103
41	Management Action Plan Disaster-Resilient Marine & Terrestrial Ecosystem (MARE)	2406-02-111-320-000-26-99	314.66000	89.04700	89.04700
42	Project Tiger	2406-02-110-1270-000-26-99	2734.85000	2699.41300	2658.46900
43	Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats	2406-02-300-2810-000-26-99	242.96000	830.68600	147.83400
				26.53200	26.53200
44	National Bamboo Mission	2406-01-300-070-000-17-99	0.01000	0.00000	0.00000
45	CAIRPA (Cs)	2406-04-103-213-300-26-99	2800.37000	2800.37000	2800.37000
	(C) Total of CS		3272.85000	3117.28900	3114.17300
	TOTAL FINANCIO		15113.25000	3467.69400	3786.36600

BUDGET ALLOCATION AND RELEASE STATUS UNDER THE SOPD, EAP & CBS DURING THE YEAR 2020-21

Annexure - IV

(Rupees)

S.No.	Name of the SOPD Scheme	Head of Accounts	Total Allocation	Fin. Sanction Amount	FOC Issued
			4	5	6
	SOPD Schemes				
1	Social Forestry (General)	2406-01-102-0285-000-17-99	184.79	167.70	97.40761
2	Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests	2406-01-105-1319-000-17-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
3	Div. Diversity Board (Salary)	2406-01-300-0703-984-31-99	30.34	19.77	19.77
4	Div. Diversity Board (Non-Salary)	2406-01-300-0703-984-32-99	47.50	0.00	0.00
5	Forest Officer (Forest Officer) (Salary)	2406-02-111-3771-000-01-01	428.33	319.89	319.89
6	Forest Officer (Forest Officer) (Non-Salary)	2406-01-102-1245-000-17-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
7	Forest Officer (Forest Officer) (Non-Salary)	2406-01-105-1254-000-17-99	87.03	87.03	19.80677
8	Collecting Man Annual Contract	2406-01-300-0703-080-28-99	992.75	853.51	374.04060
9	Assam Forest School (Training of Staff) (Re-appropriation required from 07 to 03 Head)	2415-06-277-1310-000-04-07 2415-06-277-1310-000-28-01	190.01	0.00	0.00
10	Forest Research	2415-06-004-1308-000-26-99	103.80	0.00	0.00
11	Forest Publicity	2406-01-300-0800-710-36-99	47.50	7.00	2.00
12	Development of Forest Villages	2406-01-300-0800-000-26-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
13	Allowance to Staff and Labour	2406-01-101-1240-000-04-99	142.30	98.48111	54.37821
14	Development of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries	2406-02-131-1280-000-26-99	95.00	80.42336	19.79819
15	Development of Other Wildlife Areas	2406-02-110-1263-000-26-99	95.00	28.85989	0.00
16	Working Plan Organisation	2406-01-300-1220-000-26-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
17	Forest Protection Force	4406-01-101-1238-000-13-99	95.00	86.49	44.99795
18	Modernisation of Assam State Zoo	4406-02-111-1277-000-13-99	279.07	253.93905	98.03719
19	Rehabilitation of Dabha & Labin Village under Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (NL)	2406-02-111-1289-103-17-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
20	Construction for General Areas Bench & Bridges	4406-01-070-1230-107-13-99	112.10	107.38562	51.17279
21	Building for General Areas	4406-01-070-0121-000-14-99	95.00	94.43419	58.99746
22	Div. Forest Building	4406-01-070-0121-014-13-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
23	Assam Climate Change Management Society	2406-01-300-0704-489-26-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
24	Water Treatment Plant	2406-01-300-1300-709-26-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
25	Forest School Kalyanpur	2415-06-004-1310-401-26-99	236.18	0.00	0.00
26	Interpretation Centre Cam. Museum and Library & Display	4406-01-070-0121-001-13-99	1150.00	1150.00	467.00655
27	Road Side Planting of National Highways	2406-01-105-2347-000-17-99	47.80	0.00	0.00
28	Assam State Wetland Authority	2406-02-300-2623-000-26-99	4.25	4.75	1.39
29	Deepor Beel Conservation & Development Society	2406-01-111-3540-000-26-99	0.50	0.50	0.00
30	Deployment of Modern Technology & Consumption Based System for Forestry & Wildlife Conservation & Management	2406-01-101-2524-000-26-99	95.00	54.05152	0.00
31	Air & Water Pollution Control Board	2406-01-300-0004-527-32-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
32	Global Green Kimberling	2406-01-300-1924-000-26-99	47.80	0.00	0.00
33	Flood Damage Restoration	2406-01-300-0708-001-17-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
34	Tribal SHS Plan	2406-01-300-0704-000-17-99	100.01	0.00	0.00
35	Schedule Cattle Compensat Plan	2406-01-300-0705-000-17-99	200.01	0.00	0.00
36	Animal Reserve Center at Sutanua	4406-02-111-2626-000-13-99	200.00	0.00	0.00
	Total of SOPD		6855.62	3425.41	1698.31

Sl. No.	Name of the SFDP Scheme	Head of Estimate	Total Allocation	Fin. Sanction Amount	FOC Issued
B					
BAP					
37	BAP- Aashir Project on Forest & Bio-diversity Conservation Society (APBC) (CS)	2406-01-300-0704-015-26-99	6356.80	6356.80	2397.60
38	BAP- Aashir Project on Forest & Bio-diversity Conservation Society (APBC) (SS)	2406-01-300-0704-015-26-99	1589.20	1589.20	892.40
39	BAP- Capacity Building for Forest Management & Training of Personnel (HCA) (CS)	2406-01-300-0704-015-26-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
40	BAP- Capacity Building for Forest Management & Training of Personnel (HCA) (SS)	2406-01-300-0704-015-26-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
Total BAP					
CSS					
38	National Afforestation Programme (CS)	2406-01-300-4040-000-26-99	52.00	0.00	0.00
	National Afforestation Programme (SS)	2406-01-300-4040-000-26-99	4.56	0.00	0.00
39	Forest Fire Prevention & Management (CS)	2406-01-300-1241-001-26-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
	Forest Fire Prevention & Management (SS)	2406-01-300-1241-001-26-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
40	National River Conservation (CS)	2406-02-300-4898-000-26-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
	National River Conservation (SS)	2406-02-300-4898-000-26-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
41	Project Elephant (CS)	2406-02-111-1283-000-26-99	318.00	0.00	0.00
	Project Elephant SCSP (CS)			0.00	0.00
	Project Elephant (SS)	2406-02-111-1283-000-26-99	303.00	0.00	0.00
	Project Elephant SCSP (SS)			0.00	0.00
42	Management Action Plan Biosphere Reserve, Manas & Dibru-Saikhowa (CS)	2406-02-111-1280-104-26-99	192.49	0.00	0.00
	Manas			0.00	0.00
	Dibru-Saikhowa			0.00	0.00
	Management Action Plan Biosphere Reserve, Manas & Dibru-Saikhowa (SS)	2406-02-111-1280-104-26-99	182.00	0.00	0.00
	Manas			0.00	0.00
	Dibru-Saikhowa			0.00	0.00
43	Project Tiger (CS)	2406-02-110-1270-000-26-99			0.00
	Kashmir			0.00	1115.51
	Orissa		342.931	0.00	27.18
	Madhya Pradesh			0.00	118.72
	Namdi			0.00	84.63
	Project Tiger (SS)	2406-02-110-1270-000-26-99			0.00
	Kashmir			172.27	141.53
	Orissa		479.45	182.918	27.912
	Madhya Pradesh			0.00	41.822
	Namdi			0.00	12.66
44	Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat (CS)	2406-02-300-0713-000-26-99	270.09	0.00	0.00
	Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat (SS)	2406-02-300-0713-000-26-99	25.69	0.00	0.00
45	National Bamboo Mission (CS)	2406-01-300-0704-015-26-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
	National Bamboo Mission (SS)	2406-01-300-0704-015-26-99	0.01	0.00	0.00
46	CAMPA (CS)	2406-00-111-2213-000-26-99	2023.35	0.00	1029.90
Total of CSS					
Grand Total (A+B+C)					

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-781005**

**ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR
NOTIFICATION**

Dated Dispur, the 27th July, 2021

No.FRP.10/2019/31 : The Governor of Assam is pleased to constitute a Coordination Committee per the observations and recommendations in its 22nd report of the Committee Related to the Committee (DRSG) on Development (A) Department, Department of the State Knowledge & Bureaucracy Brahmaputra River Bank side with the following members:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Commissioner, Secretary, T & D | Chairman |
| 2. Field Director, Kaziranga Tiger Reserve | Member Secretary |
| 3. Secretary, Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department | Member |
| 4. Secretary/Commissioner, P & RD | Member |
| 5. Secretary/Chief Engineer, PWD, Assam | Member |
| 6. Deputy Commissioners, Nagaon, Golaghat and Sorigur | Member |
| 7. Experts from | |
| i. IIT Guwahati | |
| ii. Tezpur University | |
| iii. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun | |
| 8. Representatives from local self Government | Member |
| 9. 2 Representatives from civil society | Member |

The committee will come out with a scientific plan and fund requirement.

Sd/- Madhuras Barmah (Sen), IAS
Secretary to the Government of Assam
Environment & Forest Department
Dated Dispur, the 29th July, 2021

Memo No.FRP.10/2019/31 -A
Copy to:

- The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Hort. Assam, Panjabari, Guwahati-37. You are requested kindly to propose name of representatives from local self Government and from Civil Society.
- The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Hort. Wildlife, Assam, Panjabari, Guwahati-37
- The Secretary/Commissioner, Transmission & Distribution Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6.
- The Field Director, Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, Golaghat
- The Secretary, Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6
- The Secretary/Commissioner, P & RD Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6
- The Secretary/Chief Engineer, PWD, Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-5
- The Deputy Commissioners, Nagaon/Golaghat/Sorigur
- The Director, IIT Guwahati-781039. You are requested to nominate expert for the Coordination Committee.
- The Vice-Chancellor, Tezpur University Nagaon, Tezpur, Sorigur, Assam, Pin - 784028. You are requested to nominate expert for the Coordination Committee.
- The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Post Bag 112, Chandrabani, Dehradun-248001. You are requested to nominate expert for the Coordination Committee.
- The Deputy Director, Printing & Stationery, Assam Govt. Press, Bamanmaldan, Guwahati-21 for favour of publication of the above notification in the next issue of the Assam Gazette.

By order etc.

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Environment & Forest Department



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (WILDLIFE) AND
CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN, ASSAM::PANJABARI::GUWAHATI-37Email ID: pccf.wl.assam@gmail.com

No. WL/FG.35/Relocation of Laika-Dadhia/FV/16

Date: 25.06.2021

To

The Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Environment & Forests,
Dispur, Guwahati.

Sub: Updated status report on relocation of Laika and Dadhia villages from Dibru Saikhowa -
regarding.

Ref.: Govt. of Assam letter no. FRM.107/2020/P/20 dtd:19/06/2021.

Sir

With reference to the subject mentioned above, we have received a status note on the subject from the DFO, Tinsukia WL Division (Copy enclosed). The details of forest villages of Laika and Dadhia as per the DFOs report are given below:

1.

Name of the Forest Village	No. of Families	Population	Total allotted land	Proposal submitted to Forest Conservation Act.	Visit of MoEF Officials on 10 th and 11 th February, 2021
Laika	578	3022	238		
Dadhia	944	3843	135		
Total	1522	6865	373		

2. The proposal for relocation of Laika FV & Dadhia FV under Digboi Forest Division [Paharpur RF (area 166 ha.) and Namphai RF (area 72 Ha.)] and Pabha Reserve Forest (135 ha.) under Lakhimpur Forest Division has been proposed under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 on 23/01/2021 and 27/01/2021 respectively.
3. Officials of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India visited both the areas on 10th & 11th Feb, 2021, respectively.
4. The Stage-I approval for relocation of Laika FV has been granted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi, vide their File No. E.01/2021 -FC dated 29th March, 2021. The stage-I approval asks for mandatory compliance of Forest Right Act, 2006, Rehabilitation and Relocation plan and Socio-economic survey. These need to be fulfilled prior to handing over the forest land. However, Stage-I approval for relocation of Dhadhi FV to Pabha Reserve Forest (135 ha.) has not been received from MoEF&CC.
5. As per the requirement for Stage-II clearance for diversion of Paharpur RF (166 ha.) and Namphai RF (72 Ha.) a certificate under the Forest Right Act, 2006 is to be furnished by DC, Tinsukia within 45 days for issuing of Stage-I approval by the

Condi..

MoEF&CC. The DC, Tinsukia is required to call a Meeting of Namphai gram sabha and Balijan gram sabha which are located close to Namphai and Paharpur RFs respectively. In spite of several reminders the DC, Tinsukia has not yet called a meeting of these two gram sabhas due to Covid-19 pandemic situation. For Stage-II clearance is necessary that the certificate is issued by DC, Tinsukia based on the NOC from the two gram sabhas. However, the other document required for stage-I clearance, relocation plan and socio economic survey are ready.

6. Further, the Govt. of Assam vide his notification no. FRM-10/2019 dated 29 January, 2021 had constituted a committee to monitor and coordinate the relocation and rehabilitation of Laika and Dadhia FV from Dibroo Sarowar. Some members of this committee were elected representative, and with the expiry of the term of Vidhan Sabha of Assam it is suggested that this committee may kindly be re-constituted.
7. Further, it is informed that for relocation and rehabilitation of Laika and Dadhia FV during 2021-22 no funds have been allocated in vote of Account Budget for 2021-2022. Thus, a budgetary allocation Rs. 121.50 Lakh has been proposed for 2021-22, which may kindly be approved. It is further informed that during 2020-21 all the families as per the forest department records of Dadhia and Laika were distributed Rs. 1 Lakh each to facilitate their rehabilitation.

As per fact mentioned above, the efforts made till date for relocation and rehabilitation of Laika and Dadhia FV will be futile in case the following action are not immediately taken.

- i. The DC, Tinsukia may be asked to immediately convening gram sabha meetings and issue certificate under IRA Act, 2006.
- ii. Budgetary allocation of Rs. 121.50 Lakh may be provided, so that Namphai RF and Paharpur RF could be cleared from all existing encroachers, if any, so that land allocation could be undertaken without delay.
- iii. The FV of Laika has already received Rs. 1 lakh per family as rehabilitation amount from DC, Tinsukia and so they may be asked to start moving as per the plots allocated to them.
- iv. The high level rehabilitation monitoring committee may kindly be reconstituted so that the convergence to various Govt. developmental schemes could be implemented for the villagers of Laika to be relocated at Namphai and Paharpur RFs.

Yours faithfully



(Dr. Amit Sahai, IFS)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), Assam
Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati

Encl: As above.

Copy for information to:

1. The PCCE & HoFF, Assam, Panjabari, Guwahati,
2. The DFO, Tinsukia WL Division
3. The DFO, Digboi Division


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), Assam
Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati

Observations and Recommendations on **Grant no. 55 : Forest**

1. The Committee observes that the department could not furnish proper justification for under-utilisation of fund allotted to different schemes, specially under CAMPA.

The Committee therefore recommends that the department should furnish all details including fund available with Assam State Compensatory Afforestation Fund (SCAF), date of submission of APO, date of approval in the State Level Steering Committee, date of submission of APO to National CAMPA and date of approval of APO in the National CAMPA etc wef. 2018-19 to 2021-22 in the next meeting of the committee.

2. The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation that the plantation works, nurseries and all step shall be taken under CAMPA be created and managed through JFMCs.

3. The Committee further observes that the advance work, creation (actual planting), maintenance (three weedings, climber cuttings, burning) etc which are so vital for success of any plantation, are not done in time.

The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation that each work component for plantations and nurseries shall be done in time and accordingly Forest department shall immediately move a proposal to the Government for exempting fund releases under SoPD for such seasonal activities from the existing system of ceiling.

4. The Committee observed that even after strong recommendation by 23rd DRSC, there are instances where local MLAs are not being appraised by the local DFOs of various activities being undertaken by the forest department.

The Committee reiterates strict implementation of previous recommendation of ensuring active involvement of the local MLAs in any activity under the department and the department shall evolve and implement appropriate mechanism for this.

5. The Committee reiterated its previous recommendation that the local people and the local bidders should be given preference in tendering system and in any forestry activity. Committee also recommended that in case of tie between two lowest financial bids which are otherwise on equal footing in all other aspects, bid offered by the local bidder shall be given preference for settlement of that particular bid.

The Committee accordingly directed that the forest department shall immediately move a proposal to the Government for amendment of Assam Public Procurement Act 2017 and Assam Public Procurement Rules 2020 to that effect.

6. The Committee reviewed the action taken in the matter of alleged allotment of a 15-ha plot of plantation at Baghbar hill under CAMPA was illegal and the Comparative Statement (CS) was also erroneous, the Committee recommends that disciplinary action shall be initiated against all the officers involved in settlement of the said plot of plantation and action taken report shall be furnished to the committee within a period of three months.

7. The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation of converting the SF Division, Barpeta into a Territorial Division in view of remoteness and vastness of the area under NK Division, Rangia.
8. The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation that the SF Beat at Baaghbar shall be upgraded into a Range and two SF Beats at Baghmara char and Chatala shall be newly created.
9. The Committee further recommends that the plantations shall be created under CAMPA along both sides of the newly constructed roads under PWD, especially under PMGSY. Forest department, while contributing in terms of planting material and technical guidance, may liaise with DRDA to tap the MGNREGA scheme for supply of labour for such activities.
10. The Committee recommends to construct Forest Guest House at Jharbari under Haltugaon Division, Kokrajhar.
11. The committee recommends that the department shall endeavour to create on nursery in each of the revenue villages and major educational institutions under CAMPA and the same may be deliberated in the State Level Executive and Steering Committees.
12. The Committee recommends that the Department shall take all necessary steps to prevent pilferage of minor minerals from Mineral Concession Areas across the State.
13. The committee recommends forest department to augment sources of revenue by taking all necessary steps such as collection of royalty from brick-kilns, operation of MFP mahals, facilitating online booking of various services offered at National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, including Eco-tourism circuits in the State.
14. The Committee directed the Department to take up the matter with to submit findings of research-based study regarding the impact of Mega dams constructed by the nearby countries like Nepal, China, Bhutan etc. in the lower Assam area and directed that the report may be submitted by the Water Resources department in the next meeting of the Committee.
15. The Committee also recommends to initiate plantation of Cane in large scale where land is available.

The Committee recommends that the Budget allocation provided under Grant No.55 for Financial Year 2022-2023 for the Forest Department be approved by the August House.

