

## First Meeting of the National CAMPA Advisory Council

### Agenda Note

#### **Background:-**

With the pursuance of the MEF, the long pending issue of establishing a mechanism to undertake compensatory afforestation and other works to be taken up by utilizing NPV money could be resolution on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2009. The resolution of the problem necessitated detailed discussion with the concerned authority including the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) and the Attorney General of India.

The Supreme Court of India, while accepting the recommendation of the Ad-hoc CAMPA and the report of the Central Empowered of Committee, approved the guidelines dated 02<sup>nd</sup> July, 2009 on "State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (State CAMPA)."

The guidelines on State CAMPA, inter alia, have provision for establishing the National CAMPA Advisory Council. The Council is chaired by the Union Minister of Environment & Forests. The membership of the Council includes six PCCF by rotation and two Non-Official members, having knowledge and expertise in the field of Environment and Forests Management.

Accordingly, the National CAMPA Advisory Council was constituted wide this Ministry 's order no. 13-1/2009-CAMPA dated 13.08.2009 with the following functions.

- (i) Lay down broad guidelines for State CAMPA;
- (ii) Regularly monitor and evaluate, in consultation with State, Projects being undertaken by State CAMPAs;
- (iii) Facilitate scientific technological and other assistance that may be required by State CAMPAs;
- (iv) Provide a mechanism to State CAMPAs to resolve issues of an inter- State or Centre-State character.

In view of above, broad agenda items for the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the newly constituted National CAMPA Advisory Council on 29.09.2009 is as follows: - .

## **Agenda No. 1**

### **Opening of Separate sub-account to meet the expenditure of the works approved by the National CAPMA Advisory Council**

**The Ad-hoc CAMPA in the meeting on 15.09.2009 has discussed this issue as below:**

"The Hon'ble Supreme Court has authorized the National CAMPA Advisory Council to utilize upto 5% of the amount released to the State CAMPA every year for monitoring and evaluation and for implementation of the various schemes by it. The said amount can be spent by the National CAMPA Advisory Council either directly (through the MoEF) or through the Ad-hoc CAMPA. Accordingly, the Ad-hoc CAMPA is to release upto Rs. 50 crores per annum for this purpose for the next five years. In case, the National CAMPA Advisory Council decides to spend the amount through MoEF, the amount is to be released to the MoEF for this purpose otherwise to be retained and disbursed as per the decisions taken by the National CAMPA Advisory Council.

"Therefore, it is proposed to direct the Ad-hoc CAMPA to open a separate sub-account to meet the expenditure on works approved by the National CAMPA Advisory Council and 5% of the amount already released to States, may be remitted to the proposed sub-account by the Ad-hoc CAMPA. The credit balance in the said account may be released as per the decisions taken by the National CAMPA Advisory Council."

The above is operative part of the decision if National CAMPA Advisory Council decides the mode of expenditure through Ad-hoc CAMPA

In case of mode of an expenditure through the Ministry of Environment & Forests, the channel of decision would be longer, therefore, it may not be preferable.

## **Agenda Item – 2**

### **Establishment of National Forestry Informatic Centre**

The Ministry has constituted a Core Group of experts/professionals from various discipline concerned with natural resource Management including the Monitoring and evaluation of works by using information and communication Technology (ICT).

Ad-hoc CAMPA in its meeting on 15.09.2009 has also suggested as follows:-

- (i) For establishment of National Forestry Informatics Centre, there are two modes- one to register a company u/s 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 or to register a Society (National level) for operational reason it may be appropriate that instead of Section 25 of the Companies Act, a Society is registered at Delhi. The Van Vigyan Bhawan, ICFRE can be used for the time being, as the registered office of the proposed Society. The Society may consist of ex-officio members as well as technical experts. Ultimately, the working place of the Society may be established in Gurgaon at a suitable location for which the State of Haryana will be willing to allot adequate land.
- (ii) The National CAMPA Advisory Council may consider release of Rs. 5 crores per annum for the next five years for the time being as grant-in-aid to the said Society.
- (iii) The MoEF may agree for sparing adequate number of IFS officers for working in the society.
- (iv) There is no need of creating any posts for this purpose. The Society will make its own rules and create posts as and when required by it.
- (v) The FSI have adequate technical expertise available with it to start the work. It may be desirable, a MoU is entered into by the Society with FSI (after obtaining approval of the MoEF) for establishing of the National Forestry Information Centre.
- (vi) One of the jobs that can be taken by the proposed Society is procurement of high resolution maps, ground truth verification, and overlapping of the satellite imagery on the revenue/forest maps. This will provide a permanent record for various application such as

effectiveness of plantations, change in forest cover, encroachment, forest fire, etc., and will in due course of time become the most powerful tool available for forest management in the country. The same system can also be used for verifying the effectiveness of various site specific works undertaken by utilizing CAMPA funds.

- (vii) The National CAMPA Advisory Council may also consider requesting the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to examine the feasibility of providing financial Assistance for the project.

### **Agenda No. 3**

#### **Think Tank for Policy Analysis and Strategic formulation.**

It is established practice in most of the advance countries to develop long term vision and formulate strategy for any sector using the expertise of the Think Tanks, having professionals from various disciplines.

The Ad-hoc CAMPA has also deliberated on this issue on 15.09.2009 and has suggested as follows:-

- (i) The National CAMPA Advisory Council may consider setting up of a separate Society to work as a Think Tank for policy analysis and strategy formulation for the forestry and wildlife sector. It may be mentioned that in many countries most of the policy analysis and strategic analysis is done outside the government and has been very successful in tackling the complex issues.
- (ii) It is expected that in due course of time both the centres will act as a funnel for receipt of funds from various sources and play an important role in forest administration. It is also expected that they will provide valuable inputs in policy analysis, establishment of legal frameworks for conservation and protection of forests and act as an institutionalized advisory group to the MoEF.
- (iii) It may be pertinent to mention that within the proposed system we are not required to create posts rather can utilize services of professional on voluntary basis and of officials by outsourcing the works.

## **Agenda Item 4**

**Any matter to be raised with the permission of Chair**